
SENATE BILL 5235

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Senators Wellman, Harris, Nobles, Saldaña, and C. Wilson

Read first time 01/14/25. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to repealing and reorganizing outdated statutes
2 concerning public schools; amending RCW 28A.175.145 and 28A.235.120;
3 adding a new section to chapter 28A.235 RCW; recodifying RCW
4 28A.623.030; and repealing RCW 28A.335.300, 28A.415.315, 28A.415.330,
5 28A.415.380, 28A.600.045, 28A.605.040, 28A.623.005, 28A.623.010,
6 28A.623.020, 28A.625.100, 28A.625.110, 28A.625.150, 28A.630.198,
7 28A.630.810, 28A.655.071, 28A.655.130, 28A.655.280, 28A.690.010,
8 28A.690.020, and 28A.690.030.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

10 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.175.145 and 2022 c 75 s 2 are each amended to
11 read as follows:

12 (1)(a) Subject to funds appropriated for this purpose or
13 otherwise available in the account established in RCW 28A.175.155,
14 beginning in the 2011-12 school year and each year thereafter, a high
15 school that demonstrates improvement in its dropout prevention score
16 compared to the baseline school year as calculated under RCW
17 28A.175.140 may receive a PASS program award as provided under this
18 section. The legislature intends to recognize and reward continuous
19 improvement by using a baseline year for calculating eligibility for
20 PASS program awards so that a high school retains previously earned

1 award funds from one year to the next unless its performance
2 declines.

3 (b) The office of the superintendent of public instruction must
4 determine the amount of PASS program awards based on appropriated
5 funds and eligible high schools. The intent of the legislature is to
6 provide an award to each eligible high school commensurate with the
7 degree of improvement in the high school's dropout prevention score
8 and the size of the high school. The office must establish a minimum
9 award amount. If funds available for PASS program awards are not
10 sufficient to provide an award to each eligible high school, the
11 office of the superintendent of public instruction shall establish
12 objective criteria to prioritize awards based on eligible high
13 schools with the greatest need for additional dropout prevention and
14 intervention services. The office of the superintendent of public
15 instruction shall encourage and may require a high school receiving a
16 PASS program award to demonstrate an amount of community matching
17 funds or an amount of in-kind community services to support dropout
18 prevention and intervention.

19 (c) Ninety percent of an award under this section must be
20 allocated to the eligible high school to be used for dropout
21 prevention activities in the school as specified in subsection (2) of
22 this section. The principal of the high school shall determine the
23 use of funds after consultation with parents and certificated and
24 classified staff of the school.

25 (d) Ten percent of an award under this section must be allocated
26 to the school district in which the eligible high school is located
27 to be used for dropout prevention activities as specified in
28 subsection (2) of this section in the high school or in other schools
29 in the district.

30 (e) The office of the superintendent of public instruction may
31 withhold distribution of award funds under this section to an
32 otherwise eligible high school or school district if the
33 superintendent of public instruction issues a finding that the school
34 or school district has willfully manipulated the dropout prevention
35 indicators under RCW 28A.175.140, for example by expelling,
36 suspending, transferring, or refusing to enroll students at risk of
37 dropping out of school or at risk of low achievement.

38 (2) High schools and school districts may use PASS program award
39 funds for any programs or activities that support the development of
40 a dropout prevention, intervention, and reengagement system as

1 described in RCW 28A.175.074, offered directly by the school or
2 school district or under contract with education agencies or
3 community-based organizations, including but not limited to
4 educational service districts and workforce development councils.
5 Such programs or activities may include but are not limited to the
6 following:

7 (a) Strategies to close the educational opportunity and
8 achievement gaps among groups of students as disaggregated by the
9 categories and subcategories in RCW 28A.300.042 (1) and (3);

10 (b) Use of graduation coaches as defined in RCW 28A.175.150;

11 (c) Opportunity internship activities under RCW 28C.18.164;

12 (d) Dropout reengagement programs provided by community-based
13 organizations or community and technical colleges;

14 (e) ~~((Comprehensive guidance and planning programs as defined~~
15 ~~under RCW 28A.600.045, including but not limited to the navigation~~
16 ~~101 program)) Developing and updating high school and beyond plans~~
17 under RCW 28A.230.212;

18 (f) Reduced class sizes, extended school day, extended school
19 year, and tutoring programs for students identified as at risk of
20 dropping out of school, including instruction to assist these
21 students in meeting graduation requirements in mathematics and
22 science;

23 (g) Outreach and counseling targeted to students identified as at
24 risk of dropping out of school, or who have dropped out of school, to
25 encourage them to consider learning alternatives such as
26 preapprenticeship programs, skill centers, running start, technical
27 high schools, and other options for completing a high school diploma;

28 (h) Preapprenticeship programs under RCW 49.04.190;

29 (i) Mentoring programs for students;

30 (j) Development and use of dropout early warning data systems;

31 (k) Counseling, resource and referral services, and intervention
32 programs to address social, behavioral, and health factors associated
33 with dropping out of school;

34 (l) Implementing programs for in-school suspension or other
35 strategies to avoid excluding middle and high school students from
36 the school whenever possible;

37 (m) Parent engagement activities such as home visits and off-
38 campus parent support group meetings related to dropout prevention
39 and reengagement; and

40 (n) Early learning programs for prekindergarten students.

1 (3) High schools and school districts are encouraged to implement
2 dropout prevention and reengagement strategies in a comprehensive and
3 systematic manner, using strategic planning, school improvement
4 plans, evaluation and feedback, and response to intervention tools.

5 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.235.120 and 2002 c 36 s 1 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 The directors of any school district may establish, equip and
8 operate meal programs in school buildings for pupils; certificated
9 and classified employees; volunteers; public agencies, political
10 subdivisions, or associations that serve public entities while using
11 school facilities; other local, state, or federal child nutrition
12 programs; and for school or employee functions: PROVIDED, That the
13 expenditures for food supplies shall not exceed the estimated
14 revenues from the sale of meals, federal aid, Indian education fund
15 lunch aid, or other anticipated revenue, including donations, to be
16 received for that purpose: ((PROVIDED FURTHER, That the directors of
17 any school district may provide for the use of kitchens and
18 lunchrooms or other facilities in school buildings to furnish meals
19 to elderly persons at cost as provided in RCW 28A.623.020:))
20 PROVIDED, FURTHER, That the directors of any school district may
21 provide for the use of kitchens and lunchrooms or other facilities in
22 school buildings to furnish meals at cost as provided in RCW
23 28A.623.030 (as recodified by this act) to children who are
24 participating in educational or training or care programs or
25 activities conducted by private, nonprofit organizations and entities
26 and to students who are attending private elementary and secondary
27 schools. Operation for the purposes of this section shall include the
28 employment and discharge for sufficient cause of personnel necessary
29 for preparation of food or supervision of students during lunch
30 periods and fixing their compensation, payable from the district
31 general fund, or entering into agreement with a private agency for
32 the establishment, management and/or operation of a food service
33 program or any part thereof.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.623.030 is recodified as a section
35 in chapter 28A.235 RCW.

36 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The following acts or parts of acts are
37 each repealed:

- 1 (1) RCW 28A.335.300 (Playground matting) and 2015 c 225 s 27 &
2 1991 c 297 s 18;
- 3 (2) RCW 28A.415.315 (Classified instructional assistants—
4 Training) and 2009 c 539 s 2 & 2008 c 65 s 2;
- 5 (3) RCW 28A.415.330 (Professional development institutes—Managing
6 disruptive students) and 1999 c 166 s 2;
- 7 (4) RCW 28A.415.380 (Mathematics and science instructional coach
8 program—Evaluation—Reports) and 2009 c 578 s 1 & 2007 c 396 s 4;
- 9 (5) RCW 28A.600.045 (Comprehensive guidance and planning programs
10 for students) and 2008 c 170 s 303 & 2006 c 117 s 2;
- 11 (6) RCW 28A.605.040 (Family, school, and community partnerships—
12 School building spaces) and 2010 c 235 s 701;
- 13 (7) RCW 28A.623.005 (Condensed compliance reports—Second-class
14 districts) and 2011 c 45 s 47;
- 15 (8) RCW 28A.623.010 (Nonprofit program for elderly—Purpose) and
16 1990 c 33 s 511 & 1973 c 107 s 1;
- 17 (9) RCW 28A.623.020 (Nonprofit program for elderly—Authorized—
18 Restrictions) and 1990 c 33 s 512 & 1973 c 107 s 3;
- 19 (10) RCW 28A.625.100 (Board of directors of a school district may
20 establish) and 1986 c 143 s 1;
- 21 (11) RCW 28A.625.110 (Awards) and 1990 c 33 s 519, 1987 1st ex.s.
22 c 2 s 207, & 1986 c 143 s 2;
- 23 (12) RCW 28A.625.150 (Award program) and 1990 c 33 s 520, 1987
24 1st ex.s. c 2 s 210, & 1985 c 399 s 2;
- 25 (13) RCW 28A.630.198 (Teacher preparation programs—Report) and
26 2019 c 295 s 204;
- 27 (14) RCW 28A.630.810 (Rules) and 1989 c 233 s 17;
- 28 (15) RCW 28A.655.071 (Revised essential academic learning
29 requirements—Legislative review—Implementation) and 2010 c 235 s
30 601;
- 31 (16) RCW 28A.655.130 (Accountability implementation funds) and
32 1999 c 388 s 402;
- 33 (17) RCW 28A.655.280 (Applicability of certificates of individual
34 achievement and assessments) and 2019 c 252 s 401;
- 35 (18) RCW 28A.690.010 (Compact entered into—Terms) and 1990 c 33 s
36 545 & 1969 ex.s. c 283 s 4;
- 37 (19) RCW 28A.690.020 (Superintendent as "designated state
38 official," compact administrator—Professional educator standards

1 board to approve text of contracts) and 2006 c 263 s 818, 1990 c 33 s
2 546, & 1969 ex.s. c 283 s 5; and
3 (20) RCW 28A.690.030 (True copies of contracts filed in office of
4 superintendent—Publication) and 1990 c 33 s 547 & 1969 ex.s. c 283 s
5 6.

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