

---

HOUSE BILL 1977

---

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2007 Regular Session

By Representatives Quall, Fromhold, Priest, Curtis, Ormsby, Hunt, P. Sullivan, Haigh, Dunn, Kenney, Morrell and Wood

Read first time 02/02/2007. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to skill centers; amending RCW 84.52.068; adding a  
2 new chapter to Title 28A RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that student access to  
5 programs offered at skill centers can help prepare them for careers,  
6 apprenticeships, and postsecondary education. The legislature further  
7 finds that current limits on how school districts and skill centers  
8 report full-time equivalent students and the time students are served  
9 provide a disincentive for school districts to send their students to  
10 skill centers. The legislature further finds that there are barriers  
11 to providing access to students in rural and remote areas but that  
12 there are opportunities to do so with satellite and branch campus  
13 programs, distance and online learning programs, and collaboration with  
14 higher education, business, and labor. The legislature further finds  
15 that skill centers provide opportunities for dropout prevention and  
16 retrieval programs by offering programs that accommodate students' work  
17 schedules and provide credit retrieval opportunities. The legislature  
18 further finds that implementing the recommendations from the study by

1 the workforce training and education coordinating board will enhance  
2 skill center programs and student access to those programs.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A skill center is a regional career and  
4 technical education partnership established to provide access to  
5 comprehensive industry-defined career and technical programs of study  
6 that prepare students for careers, employment, apprenticeships, and  
7 postsecondary education. A skill center is operated by a host school  
8 district and governed by an administrative council in accordance with  
9 a cooperative agreement.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Beginning in the 2007-08 school year and  
11 thereafter, students attending skill centers shall be funded for all  
12 classes at the skill center and the sending districts, up to two full-  
13 time equivalents.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The office of the superintendent of  
15 public instruction shall review and revise the guidelines for skill  
16 centers to encourage skill center programs. The superintendent, in  
17 cooperation with the workforce training and education coordinating  
18 board, skill center directors, and the Washington association for  
19 career and technical education, shall review and revise the existing  
20 skill centers' policy guidelines and create and adopt rules governing  
21 skill centers as follows:

22 (a) The threshold enrollment at a skill center shall be revised so  
23 that a skill center program need not have a minimum of seventy percent  
24 of its students enrolled on the skill center core campus in order to  
25 facilitate serving rural students through expansion of skill center  
26 programs by means of satellite programs or branch campuses;

27 (b) The developmental planning for branch campuses shall be  
28 encouraged. Underserved rural areas or high-density areas may partner  
29 with an existing skill center to create satellite programs or a branch  
30 campus. Once a branch campus reaches sufficient enrollment to become  
31 self-sustaining, it may become a separate skill center or remain an  
32 extension of the founding skill center; and

33 (c) Satellite and branch campus programs shall be encouraged to  
34 address high-demand fields.

1 (2) The superintendent of public instruction shall develop and  
2 deliver a ten-year capital plan as part of the common school  
3 construction account for legislative approval.

4 (3) Subject to available funding, the superintendent shall:

5 (a) Conduct approved feasibility studies for serving noncooperative  
6 rural and high-density area students in their geographic areas; and

7 (b) Develop a statewide master plan that identifies standards and  
8 resources needed to create a technology infrastructure for connecting  
9 all skill centers to the K-20 network.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Subject to available funding, skill centers  
11 shall provide access to late afternoon and evening sessions and summer  
12 school programs, to rural and high-density area students aligned with  
13 regionally identified high-demand occupations. When possible, the  
14 programs shall be specifically targeted for credit retrieval, dropout  
15 prevention and intervention for at-risk students, and retrieval of  
16 dropouts. Skill centers that receive funding under this section must  
17 participate in an evaluation that is designed to quantify results and  
18 identify best practices, collaborate with local community partners in  
19 providing a comprehensive program, and provide matching funds.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** (1) The superintendent of public instruction  
21 shall establish and support skill centers of excellence in key economic  
22 sectors of regional significance. The superintendent shall broker the  
23 development of skill centers of excellence and identify their roles in  
24 developing curriculum and methodologies for reporting skill center  
25 course equivalencies for purposes of high school graduation.

26 (2) Once the skill centers of excellence are established, the  
27 superintendent of public instruction shall develop and seek funding for  
28 a running start for career and technical education grant program to  
29 develop and implement career and technical programs of study targeted  
30 to regionally determined high-demand occupations. Grant recipients  
31 should be partnerships of skill centers of excellence, community  
32 college centers of excellence, tech-prep programs, industry advisory  
33 committees, area workforce development councils, and skill panels in  
34 the related industry. Grant recipients should be expected to develop  
35 and assist in the replication of model career and technical education

1 programs of study. The career and technical education programs of  
2 study developed should be consistent with the expectations in the  
3 applicable federal law.

4 **Sec. 7.** RCW 84.52.068 and 2005 c 514 s 1104 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 (1) A portion of the proceeds of the state property tax levy shall  
7 be deposited into the student achievement fund as provided in this  
8 section.

9 (2)(a) The amount of the deposit shall be based upon the average  
10 number of full-time equivalent students in the school districts during  
11 the previous school year as reported to the office of the  
12 superintendent of public instruction by August 31st of the previous  
13 school year.

14 (b) For the 2004-2005 through 2007-2008 school years, an annual  
15 amount equal to two hundred fifty-four dollars per full-time equivalent  
16 student in all school districts shall be deposited in the student  
17 achievement fund.

18 (c) For the 2008-2009 school year, an annual amount equal to two  
19 hundred sixty-five dollars per full-time equivalent student in all  
20 school districts shall be deposited in the student achievement fund.

21 (d) For the 2009-2010 school year, an annual amount equal to two  
22 hundred seventy-seven dollars per full-time equivalent student in all  
23 school districts shall be deposited in the student achievement fund.

24 (e) For the 2010-2011 school year and each year thereafter, an  
25 annual amount equal to two hundred seventy-eight dollars per full-time  
26 equivalent student in all school districts shall be deposited in the  
27 student achievement fund.

28 (f) The school district annual amounts shall be deposited based on  
29 the monthly apportionment schedule as defined in RCW 28A.510.250. The  
30 office of the superintendent of public instruction shall notify the  
31 department of the monthly amounts to be deposited into the student  
32 achievement fund to meet the apportionment schedule. The  
33 superintendent of public instruction shall ensure that moneys generated  
34 by skill center students is returned to skill centers.

1        NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 8.**   Sections 2 through 6 of this act constitute  
2   a new chapter in Title 28A RCW.

--- END ---