
HOUSE BILL 3212

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2008 Regular Session

By Representatives Santos and Hudgins

Read first time 01/24/08. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to monitoring and addressing achievement of groups
2 of students; and amending RCW 28A.300.130, 43.06B.020, and 28A.655.090.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.300.130 and 2006 c 116 s 2 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) To facilitate access to information and materials on
7 educational improvement and research, the superintendent of public
8 instruction, to the extent funds are appropriated, shall establish the
9 center for the improvement of student learning. The center shall work
10 in conjunction with parents, educational service districts,
11 institutions of higher education, and education, parent, community, and
12 business organizations.

13 (2) The center, in conjunction with other staff in the office of
14 the superintendent of public instruction, shall:

15 (a) Serve as a clearinghouse for information regarding successful
16 educational improvement and parental involvement programs in schools
17 and districts, and information about efforts within institutions of
18 higher education in the state to support educational improvement
19 initiatives in Washington schools and districts;

1 (b) Provide best practices research that can be used to help
2 schools develop and implement: Programs and practices to improve
3 instruction; systems to analyze student assessment data, with an
4 emphasis on systems that will combine the use of state and local data
5 to monitor the academic progress of each and every student in the
6 school district; comprehensive, school-wide improvement plans; school-
7 based shared decision-making models; programs to promote lifelong
8 learning and community involvement in education; school-to-work
9 transition programs; programs to meet the needs of highly capable
10 students; programs and practices to meet the needs of students with
11 disabilities; programs and practices to meet the diverse needs of
12 students based on gender, racial, ethnic, economic, and special needs
13 status; research, information, and technology systems; and other
14 programs and practices that will assist educators in helping students
15 learn the essential academic learning requirements;

16 (c) Develop and maintain an internet web site to increase the
17 availability of information, research, and other materials;

18 (d) Work with appropriate organizations to inform teachers,
19 district and school administrators, and school directors about the
20 waivers available and the broadened school board powers under RCW
21 28A.320.015;

22 (e) Provide training and consultation services, including
23 conducting regional summer institutes;

24 (f) Identify strategies for improving the success rates of ethnic
25 and racial student groups and students with disabilities, with
26 disproportionate academic achievement;

27 (g) Work with parents, teachers, and school districts in
28 establishing a model absentee notification procedure that will properly
29 notify parents when their student has not attended a class or has
30 missed a school day. The office of the superintendent of public
31 instruction shall consider various types of communication with parents
32 including, but not limited to, electronic mail, phone, and postal mail;
33 and

34 (h) Perform other functions consistent with the purpose of the
35 center as prescribed in subsection (1) of this section.

36 (3) The superintendent of public instruction shall select and
37 employ a director for the center.

1 (4) The superintendent may enter into contracts with individuals or
2 organizations including but not limited to: School districts;
3 educational service districts; educational organizations; teachers;
4 higher education faculty; institutions of higher education; state
5 agencies; business or community-based organizations; and other
6 individuals and organizations to accomplish the duties and
7 responsibilities of the center. In carrying out the duties and
8 responsibilities of the center, the superintendent, whenever possible,
9 shall use practitioners to assist agency staff as well as assist
10 educators and others in schools and districts.

11 (5) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
12 report to the legislature by September 1, 2007, and thereafter
13 biennially, regarding the effectiveness of the center for ~~((the))~~ the
14 improvement of student learning, how the services provided by the
15 center for ~~((the))~~ the improvement of student learning have been used
16 and by whom, and recommendations to improve the accessibility and
17 application of knowledge and information that leads to improved student
18 learning and greater family and community involvement in the public
19 education system.

20 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.06B.020 and 2006 c 116 s 4 are each amended to read
21 as follows:

22 The education ombudsman shall have the following powers and duties:

23 (1) To develop parental involvement materials, including
24 instructional guides developed to inform parents of the essential
25 academic learning requirements required by the superintendent of public
26 instruction. The instructional guides also shall contain actions
27 parents may take to assist their children in meeting the requirements,
28 and should focus on reaching parents who have not previously been
29 involved with their children's education;

30 (2) To provide information to students, parents, and interested
31 members of the public regarding this state's public elementary and
32 secondary education system;

33 (3) To identify obstacles to greater parent and community
34 involvement in school shared decision-making processes and recommend
35 strategies for helping parents and community members to participate
36 effectively in school shared decision-making processes, including

1 understanding and respecting the roles of school building
2 administrators and staff;

3 (4) To identify and recommend strategies for improving the success
4 rates of ethnic and racial student groups and students with
5 disabilities, with disproportionate academic achievement;

6 (5) To refer complainants and others to appropriate resources,
7 agencies, or departments;

8 (6) To facilitate the resolution of complaints made by parents and
9 students with regard to the state's public elementary and secondary
10 education system;

11 (7) To perform such other functions consistent with the purpose of
12 the education ombudsman; and

13 (8) To consult with representatives of the following organizations
14 and groups regarding the work of the office of the education ombudsman,
15 including but not limited to:

- 16 (a) The state parent teacher association;
- 17 (b) Certificated and classified school employees;
- 18 (c) School and school district administrators;
- 19 (d) Parents of special education students;
- 20 (e) Parents of English language learners;
- 21 (f) The Washington state commission on Hispanic affairs;
- 22 (g) The Washington state commission on African-American affairs;
- 23 (h) The Washington state commission on Asian Pacific American
24 affairs; and
- 25 (i) The governor's office of Indian affairs.

26 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.655.090 and 1999 c 388 s 301 are each amended to
27 read as follows:

28 (1) By September 10, 1998, and by September 10th each year
29 thereafter, the superintendent of public instruction shall report to
30 schools, school districts, and the legislature on the results of the
31 Washington assessment of student learning and state-mandated norm-
32 referenced standardized tests.

33 (2) The reports shall include the assessment results by school and
34 school district, and include changes over time. For the Washington
35 assessment of student learning, results shall be reported as follows:

- 36 (a) The percentage of students meeting the standards;

1 (b) The percentage of students performing at each level of the
2 assessment; (~~and~~)

3 (c) Disaggregation of results by at least the following subgroups
4 of students: White, Black, Hispanic, American Indian/Alaskan Native,
5 Asian, low income, transitional bilingual, migrant, special education,
6 and students covered by section 504 of the federal rehabilitation act
7 of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. Sec. 794); and

8 (d) A learning improvement index that shows changes in student
9 performance within the different levels of student learning reported on
10 the Washington assessment of student learning.

11 (3) The reports shall contain data regarding the different
12 characteristics of schools, such as poverty levels, percent of English
13 as a second language students, dropout rates, attendance, percent of
14 students in special education, and student mobility so that districts
15 and schools can learn from the improvement efforts of other schools and
16 districts with similar characteristics.

17 (4) The reports shall contain student scores on mandated tests by
18 comparable Washington schools of similar characteristics.

19 (5) The reports shall contain information on public school choice
20 options available to students, including vocational education.

21 (6) The reports shall be posted on the superintendent of public
22 instruction's internet web site.

23 (7) To protect the privacy of students, the results of schools and
24 districts that test fewer than ten students in a grade level shall not
25 be reported. In addition, in order to ensure that results are reported
26 accurately, the superintendent of public instruction shall maintain the
27 confidentiality of statewide data files until the superintendent
28 determines that the data are complete and accurate.

29 (8) The superintendent of public instruction shall monitor the
30 percentage and number of special education and limited English-
31 proficient students exempted from taking the assessments by schools and
32 school districts to ensure the exemptions are in compliance with
33 exemption guidelines.

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