
SENATE BILL 6640

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By Senators Rasmussen, King, Sheldon, McAuliffe, Rockefeller, Holmquist, Kauffman, Schoesler, and Kohl-Welles

Read first time 01/21/08. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to professional development for instructional
2 assistants; adding a new section to chapter 28A.415 RCW; and creating
3 a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that classified
6 instructional assistants are key partners with classroom teachers in
7 improving student achievement. Research on rigorous reading programs,
8 including the reading first programs in our own state, proves that when
9 instructional assistants are skilled, well-trained in a particular
10 intervention, and positively supported by the classroom teacher or
11 coach, they can have a significant impact on student reading
12 attainment. The legislature further finds that school district
13 practice provides sufficient evidence of the need for instructional
14 assistants. Statewide, school districts relied on more than nineteen
15 thousand classified instructional assistants, equal to nearly ten
16 thousand full-time equivalent staff, during the 2006-07 school year.
17 Therefore, the legislature intends to support instructional assistants
18 by providing opportunities for high quality professional development to
19 make them more effective partners in the classroom.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.415
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 The office of the superintendent of public instruction, in
4 consultation with the public school employees of Washington and other
5 groups representing school district classified employees, shall develop
6 and offer a training strand through the summer institutes and the
7 winter conference targeted to classified instructional assistants and
8 designed to help them maximize their effectiveness in improving student
9 achievement.

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