
HOUSE BILL 2621

State of Washington 61st Legislature 2010 Regular Session

By Representatives Orwall, Maxwell, Darneille, Morrell, and Haigh

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1 AN ACT Relating to designating resource programs for science,
2 technology, engineering, and mathematics instruction in K-12 schools;
3 adding a new section to chapter 28A.630 RCW; and creating a new
4 section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature has made a commitment to
7 support multiple strategies to improve teaching and learning of
8 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in Washington's
9 public schools. In recent years, Washington has adopted new
10 technology, mathematics, and science learning standards; provided
11 professional development for mathematics and science teachers; created
12 a scholarship program to encourage students to enter mathematics and
13 science degree programs; supported career and technical education in
14 high-demand fields; and authorized alternative ways for teachers to
15 earn certification in the mathematics and science fields.

16 (2) At the local level, school districts and their communities are
17 also finding new ways to improve teaching and learning of science,
18 technology, engineering, and mathematics. Some districts have combined
19 several best practices into promising learning models for students.

1 For example, Aviation high school in the Highline school district
2 offers a small, highly personalized learning community that is focused
3 on interdisciplinary immersion in science, technology, engineering, and
4 mathematics using a hands-on, project-based curriculum. Delta high
5 school in the Tri-Cities is a collaboration among three school
6 districts, a skill center, two institutions of higher education, a
7 community foundation, and local business leaders. The science and math
8 institute at Point Defiance in Tacoma offers students field-based
9 applied learning using the natural, historical, and community resources
10 of a large metropolitan park. These schools draw students from across
11 regions who are seeking an exciting, rigorous, and nontraditional
12 learning experience. Other schools and communities across the state
13 are seeking to replicate these innovative learning models.

14 (3) The legislature intends to support continued expansion of the
15 type of innovation and creativity displayed by Aviation, Delta, and the
16 science and math institute by designating so-called "lighthouse" high
17 schools to serve as resources and examples of best practices in
18 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics instruction.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.630
20 RCW to read as follows:

21 (1) Subject to funds appropriated for this purpose, the
22 superintendent of public instruction shall designate up to three high
23 schools to serve as resources and examples of how to combine the
24 following best practices:

25 (a) A small, highly personalized learning community;

26 (b) An interdisciplinary curriculum with a strong focus on science,
27 technology, engineering, and mathematics delivered through a project-
28 based instructional approach; and

29 (c) Active partnerships with businesses and the local community to
30 connect learning beyond the classroom.

31 (2) The designated high schools shall serve as lighthouse programs
32 and provide technical assistance and advice to other high schools and
33 communities in the initial stages of creating an alternative learning
34 environment focused on science, technology, engineering, and
35 mathematics. The designated high schools must have proven experience
36 and be recognized as model programs.

1 (3) In addition, the office of the superintendent of public
2 instruction shall work with the designated high schools to publicize
3 the models of best practices in science, technology, engineering, and
4 mathematics instruction used by the designated high schools and shall
5 encourage other high schools and communities to work with the
6 designated high schools to replicate similar models.

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