
SENATE BILL 6348

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2012 Regular Session

By Senators McAuliffe, Eide, Hargrove, Conway, Rolfes, Kohl-Welles, Frockt, and Harper; by request of Governor Gregoire

Read first time 01/18/12. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to laboratory school partnerships; amending RCW
2 28A.305.140, 28A.305.140, 28A.655.180, and 28A.655.180; adding a new
3 chapter to Title 28A RCW; providing an effective date; and providing an
4 expiration date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** INTENT. The legislature finds that more
7 low-achieving schools in the state are requesting assistance in
8 improving the academic outcomes of students than are being assisted
9 today.

10 The legislature finds that schools across the country are
11 experiencing greater improvements when coherent sets of strategies are
12 implemented together, rather than by implementing one individual
13 program change at a time.

14 The legislature finds that promising educator development programs
15 provide more school-based, residency, and mentor experiences for those
16 preparing for teaching and leading careers.

17 The legislature also finds that state institutions of higher
18 education are seeking ways to disseminate best practices.

1 Therefore, the legislature intends to create laboratory school
2 partnerships that bring together Washington's institutions of higher
3 education and low-achieving public schools to collaborate and implement
4 plans to accelerate student achievement and deepen the knowledge and
5 skills of educators. The synergy of the collaboration is expected to
6 advance educator preparation and student learning practices within both
7 the public school and higher education systems.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** DEFINITION. As used in this chapter, unless
9 the context clearly requires otherwise, "institution of higher
10 education" has the same definition as in RCW 28B.10.016.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** PROGRAM--CRITERIA--ELIGIBILITY. (1) The
12 laboratory school partnership program is created. Each four-year
13 institution of higher education may enter into an agreement with an
14 eligible public school to form a partnership for a laboratory school.
15 The purpose of the partnership is to create a laboratory school in
16 which promising innovations and best practices are used to improve
17 student achievement and the preparation of educators.

18 (2) A laboratory school partnership is created by an agreement
19 between a four-year institution of higher education and a school
20 district to collaborate to improve student success and educator success
21 outcomes by:

22 (a) Developing and conducting instructional programs and services
23 in an eligible partnership school; and

24 (b) Developing educator skills in certificate candidates through
25 public school-based alternative teacher and principal preparation
26 programs.

27 (3) A laboratory school is a school that satisfies the eligibility
28 requirements in subsection (4) of this section and is partner to an
29 agreement as described in subsection (2) of this section.

30 (4) A public school is eligible to become a laboratory school if
31 it:

32 (a) Has been identified as persistently low-achieving under RCW
33 28A.657.020; and

34 (b) Has not received other state, federal, or private funds
35 specifically for the purpose of implementing a school improvement plan.

1 (5) A four-year institution of higher education may work in
2 conjunction with a Washington independent institution of higher
3 education in the work of the laboratory school partnership, however,
4 the four-year institution of higher education is the lead institution
5 of higher education in any laboratory school partnership.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** APPLICATION PROCESS. (1) Each four-year
7 institution of higher education may apply to form a laboratory school
8 partnership with one school district and its eligible school.

9 (2) The office of the superintendent of public instruction must
10 create a list of schools meeting, or that as of December 2011 met, the
11 criteria under RCW 28A.657.020, and the school districts in which those
12 schools are located. By July 1, 2012, the office of the superintendent
13 of public instruction must notify schools on the list and their school
14 districts of their eligibility to participate in a laboratory school
15 partnership. The office of the superintendent of public instruction
16 must immediately provide this list to the state board of education, the
17 professional educator standards board, and the office of financial
18 management.

19 (3) The professional educator standards board shall also send the
20 list of eligible schools, created under subsection (2) of this section,
21 to each four-year institution of higher education school of education.

22 (4)(a) The state board of education and the professional educator
23 standards board shall jointly develop an application of intent for an
24 eligible school and institution of higher education to form a
25 partnership to develop a laboratory school. The following elements
26 must be included in the application of intent:

27 (i) To design a laboratory school partnership plan to improve the
28 performance of the low-achieving school and to enhance the relevant
29 practical experience for students and faculty in teacher and principal
30 education programs and submit the plan to the professional educator
31 standards board and the state board of education;

32 (ii) To implement the laboratory school partnership plan after its
33 approval;

34 (iii) To disseminate lessons learned from the implementation of a
35 laboratory school including: Best practices for teacher and principal
36 preparation; data regarding student achievement; and school improvement
37 activities related to improved student achievement; and

1 (iv) To designate the entity that will serve as fiscal agent for
2 the laboratory school partnership.

3 (b)(i) The state board of education has approval authority for the
4 student achievement portion of the application of intent.

5 (ii) The professional educator standards board has approval
6 authority for the portions of application of intent related to educator
7 preparation.

8 (5) The application must be signed by the president of the
9 institution of higher education, the institution of higher education's
10 dean of the school of education, the superintendent of the school
11 district in which the public school is located, and the principal of
12 the eligible school.

13 (6) After the approval of the application of intent, the state
14 board of education and the professional educator standards board must
15 inform the office of financial management of those partnerships that
16 have approved applications of intent. As appropriated for this
17 purpose, the office of financial management must make available to each
18 laboratory school partnership financial resources for the development
19 of the laboratory school partnership plan.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** PLAN REQUIREMENTS. (1) The laboratory
21 school partnership plan must be developed in collaboration with the
22 institution of higher education's educator preparation program staff as
23 well as others as designated by the institution of higher education;
24 and staff and community members from the eligible school and school
25 district, including administrators, teachers, parents, unions
26 representing employees within the district, and students, as
27 appropriate. The school board and the institution of higher education
28 must jointly conduct at least one public hearing regarding the plan.

29 (2) The plan must include the following elements:

30 (a) An examination of the elements included in the school academic
31 performance audit under RCW 28A.657.040;

32 (b) Articulation of the goals and related outcomes for the
33 laboratory school related to significant student achievement gains and
34 educator preparation and development skills;

35 (c) A description of learning innovations and instructional best
36 practices to be implemented in the laboratory school that: (i) Affect

1 both educator preparation and school instructional and support services
2 provided to the school's students, and (ii) change current practices;

3 (d) A description of the roles, activities, and responsibilities of
4 the institution of higher education, the laboratory school, and
5 laboratory school's school district in carrying out the laboratory
6 school partnership plan;

7 (e) A description of the strategies the laboratory school will use
8 to engage families and communities;

9 (f) Identification of other entities involved in the laboratory
10 school and their roles and activities related to the implementation of
11 the laboratory school partnership plan;

12 (g) Identification of measures the laboratory school will use in
13 assessing:

14 (i) Student achievement, skill development, and other student
15 success indicators; and

16 (ii) Educator skill development;

17 (h) Identification of waivers to be requested from the state board
18 of education under RCW 28A.305.140 and from the superintendent of
19 public instruction under RCW 28A.655.180;

20 (i) Identification of any modifications to approved alternative
21 route programs or waivers to be requested of the professional educator
22 standards board related to alternative routes to teacher and principal
23 preparation;

24 (j) A proposed budget that uses the funding provided the laboratory
25 school partnership program and other resources available to the
26 laboratory school partnership;

27 (k) Identification and completion of any needed collective
28 bargaining procedures as specified in RCW 28A.657.050(3) and any
29 modifications to collective bargaining agreements at the institutions
30 of higher education;

31 (l) A statement providing that all contracts between a school
32 district and an employee, and contracts between an institution of
33 higher education and an employee, must allow the school district and
34 the institution of higher education to implement the approved
35 laboratory school partnership plan; and

36 (m) A timeline, with identified progress benchmarks, for
37 accomplishing the laboratory school partnership plan. The progress
38 benchmarks must address the planning year, the 2013-14 school year, and

1 the implementing years beginning with the 2014-15 school year and
2 concluding in the 2016-17 school year. Nothing prevents a laboratory
3 school partnership plan from beginning its implementation during the
4 2013-14 school year after approval of the plan as provided in section
5 6 of this act.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** PLAN APPROVAL. (1) The laboratory school
7 partnership, with supporting documentation from the eligible school's
8 school district and the institution of higher education, shall jointly
9 submit the laboratory school partnership plan to the state board of
10 education and the professional educator standards board not later than
11 February 1, 2013.

12 (2) The professional educator standards board has the
13 responsibility to approve or to not approve the portions of the plan
14 related to educator preparation.

15 (3) The state board of education must accept for inclusion in the
16 plan the final decision of the superior court on any issue certified by
17 the executive director of the public employment relations commission
18 under the process in RCW 28A.657.050. The state board of education
19 shall approve a plan proposed by a laboratory school partnership only
20 if the plan meets the requirements of section 5 of this act and
21 provides sufficient remedies to improve student achievement. Any
22 addendum or modification to an existing collective bargaining agreement
23 negotiated under RCW 28A.657.050 or by agreement of the district and
24 the exclusive bargaining unit, related to student achievement or school
25 improvement, shall not go into effect until approval of the plan by the
26 state board of education.

27 (4) If the state board of education or the professional educator
28 standards board does not approve the laboratory school partnership
29 plan, it must notify the laboratory school partnership, the eligible
30 school's school district board, and the institution of higher
31 education, in writing with an explicit rationale for why the plan was
32 not approved.

33 (5) The laboratory school partnership may submit a new laboratory
34 school partnership plan to the state board of education and the
35 professional educator standards board for approval within forty days of
36 notification that its plan was rejected.

1 (6) After the approval of the laboratory school partnership plan,
2 the state board of education and the professional educator standards
3 board must inform the office of financial management of their approval
4 of the plan. The office of financial management must make available to
5 the laboratory school partnership the financial resources for the
6 implementation of the laboratory school partnership plan, within the
7 resources appropriated for this purpose.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** WAIVERS. (1) Waivers for the implementation
9 of laboratory school partnership plans may be granted under RCW
10 28A.655.180 and 28A.305.140.

11 (2) Waivers may be initially granted for a time period not to
12 exceed the designation of the school as a laboratory school and may be
13 extended under the conditions specified in section 8 of this act.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** REVIEW AND ACCOUNTABILITY. (1) Laboratory
15 schools must provide the superintendent of public instruction the data
16 required for the superintendent of public instruction to comply with
17 any necessary reporting provisions of RCW 28A.657.100.

18 (2) The institution of higher education partner must provide data
19 requested by the professional educator standards board to enable the
20 board to evaluate the teacher preparation program in the laboratory
21 school and the extent to which the requirements of the plan are being
22 met.

23 (3) The professional educator standards board must conduct an
24 analysis of the laboratory school data and practices, and establish
25 strategies that assure longitudinal analysis of certificate candidate
26 outcomes during and beyond the project. The analysis may be performed
27 by an institution of higher education or another qualified entity
28 through a contract with the professional educator standards board.

29 (4) The laboratory school and the school district must provide data
30 requested by the state board of education and as outlined in the plan
31 approved under section 6 of this act.

32 (5)(a) Both the professional educator standards board and the state
33 board of education must summarize the laboratory school data obtained
34 under subsections (2) and (3) of this section and make any
35 recommendations in a manner that can be disseminated to the governor,
36 legislature, institutions of higher education, and school districts.

1 (b) A first report must be delivered no later than September 1,
2 2013, summarizing the laboratory school partnerships that have been
3 formed.

4 (c) Additional annual reports shall be submitted by September 1st
5 for each of the implementation years with a final report due September
6 1, 2017.

7 (6)(a) The state board of education and the professional educator
8 standards board shall develop a collaborative process to review data
9 collected under this section and reports prepared under this section
10 and consult with the laboratory schools regarding the data and reports,
11 any plan modifications, and any decisions regarding continuing plan
12 implementation.

13 (b) Recommendations from the state board of education and the
14 professional educator standards board may include a determination to
15 rescind the approval of a laboratory school partnership plan or to
16 significantly modify the laboratory school partnership plan based on a
17 lack of expected results as articulated in the plan. If the
18 recommendation is to rescind the laboratory school partnership plan,
19 the state board of education and the professional educator standards
20 board must work with the school and school district to provide a plan
21 to transition the laboratory school out of laboratory school status.

22 (7) The state board of education and the professional educator
23 standards board must notify a school when it completes its laboratory
24 school plan.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** CONTINUED OPERATION OF LABORATORY SCHOOLS.

26 Upon the successful completion of a laboratory school plan under this
27 chapter, a laboratory school may retain laboratory school status if the
28 school district and the institution of higher education develop and
29 agree to a revised plan for continual school and teacher preparation
30 program improvement beyond the completion of the plan supported by
31 grant funds. The plans must be updated and reapproved every five
32 years. The laboratory school must notify the state board of education,
33 the professional educator standards board, and the office of the
34 superintendent of public instruction of their continuing partnership.
35 As long as a school is a laboratory school, the school continues to be
36 eligible for waivers applicable to laboratory schools.

1 **Sec. 10.** RCW 28A.305.140 and 2011 c 260 s 8 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 (1) The state board of education may grant waivers to school
4 districts from the provisions of RCW 28A.150.200 through 28A.150.220 on
5 the basis that such waiver or waivers are necessary to:

6 (a) Implement successfully a local plan to provide for all students
7 in the district an effective education system that is designed to
8 enhance the educational program for each student. The local plan may
9 include alternative ways to provide effective educational programs for
10 students who experience difficulty with the regular education program;
11 (~~(e)~~)

12 (b) Implement an innovation school or innovation zone designated
13 under RCW 28A.630.081; or

14 (c) Implement a laboratory school under section 2 of this act.

15 (2) The state board shall adopt criteria to evaluate the need for
16 the waiver or waivers.

17 **Sec. 11.** RCW 28A.305.140 and 1990 c 33 s 267 are each amended to
18 read as follows:

19 (1) The state board of education may grant waivers to school
20 districts from the provisions of RCW 28A.150.200 through 28A.150.220 on
21 the basis that such waiver or waivers are necessary to implement:

22 (a) Successfully a local plan to provide for all students in the
23 district an effective education system that is designed to enhance the
24 educational program for each student. The local plan may include
25 alternative ways to provide effective educational programs for students
26 who experience difficulty with the regular education program; or

27 (b) A laboratory school under section 2 of this act.

28 (2) The state board shall adopt criteria to evaluate the need for
29 the waiver or waivers.

30 **Sec. 12.** RCW 28A.655.180 and 2011 c 260 s 9 are each amended to
31 read as follows:

32 (1) The state board of education, where appropriate, or the
33 superintendent of public instruction, where appropriate, may grant
34 waivers to districts from the provisions of statutes or rules relating
35 to: The length of the school year; student-to-teacher ratios; and
36 other administrative rules that in the opinion of the state board of

1 education or the opinion of the superintendent of public instruction
2 may need to be waived in order for a district to implement a plan for
3 restructuring its educational program or the educational program of
4 individual schools within the district or to implement an innovation
5 school or innovation zone designated under RCW 28A.630.081 or to
6 implement a laboratory school under section 2 of this act.

7 (2) School districts may use the application process in RCW
8 28A.305.140 to apply for the waivers under this section.

9 **Sec. 13.** RCW 28A.655.180 and 2009 c 543 s 3 are each amended to
10 read as follows:

11 (1) The state board of education, where appropriate, or the
12 superintendent of public instruction, where appropriate, may grant
13 waivers to districts from the provisions of statutes or rules relating
14 to: The length of the school year; student-to-teacher ratios; and
15 other administrative rules that in the opinion of the state board of
16 education or the opinion of the superintendent of public instruction
17 may need to be waived in order for a district to implement a plan for
18 restructuring its educational program or the educational program of
19 individual schools within the district or to implement a laboratory
20 school under section 2 of this act.

21 (2) School districts may use the application process in RCW
22 28A.305.140 to apply for the waivers under this section.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 14.** Sections 1 through 9 of this act constitute
24 a new chapter in Title 28A RCW.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 15.** Sections 10 and 12 of this act expire June
26 30, 2019.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 16.** Sections 11 and 13 of this act take effect
28 June 30, 2019.

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