
Education Committee

HB 1252

Brief Description: Establishing the Washington K-12 online professional development project.

Sponsors: Representatives Stonier, Carlyle, Sullivan, Lytton, Hunt, Maxwell, Harris, Takko, Fitzgibbon, Morrell, Tarleton, Jinkins, Hawkins, Haigh, Bergquist, Dahlquist, Tharinger, Freeman and Roberts.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Creates the K-12 Online Professional Development Project (Project), if funds are appropriated for this purpose.
- Requires a contracted facilitator to convene a Steering Committee of K-12 educators to design the Project, including selecting the content of the professional development modules to be provided.
- Specifies that the modules cover a range of topics and incorporate a variety of media.
- Requires a status report by December 1, 2015.
- Directs the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee to conduct an analysis of professional development for K-12 teachers and principals, including resources expended, fund sources, and type and content of professional development, with a report due by December 1, 2014.

Hearing Date: 1/31/13

Staff: Barbara McLain (786-7383).

Background:

Professional development for K-12 educators comes in many forms. Some is delivered in-person through a course or seminar using a traditional lecture format. Workshops sometimes use a more interactive format where participants break into small groups for discussion or development of materials. Other professional development is embedded in the educators' work week through in-service days, shared planning time, or creation of professional learning communities where

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groups of educators gather to work together on selected topics, such as how to use data to inform instruction or curriculum alignment.

Technology provides additional opportunities for educator professional development, including through video teleconferencing, webinars, blogs on specific topics, videos of classroom instruction, and immediate access to research and collections of curriculum, lesson plans, classroom activities, classroom-based assessments, and other materials.

Due to the wide array of forms and delivery methods, little is known about how much professional development current educators receive or on what topics, or how it is funded.

Summary of Bill:

Subject to funds appropriated for this purpose, the K-12 Online Professional Development Project (Project) is established. The purpose of the Project is to make online professional development modules available on-demand and at no cost to teachers and principals.

The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) must develop a request for proposals and select, through a competitive process, a facilitator and administrator for the Project. The duties of the facilitator include:

- appointing and convening a Steering Committee of K-12 educators who are responsible for the overall design and structure of the Project, including selection of the content;
- overseeing and providing support for creation of the professional development modules by K-12 educators;
- providing technical support and infrastructure; and
- actively seeking public-private partnerships to support the Project.

The professional development modules under the Project must incorporate a variety of media, including hybrid learning modules that combine online with face-to-face collaboration, and provide for data collection on usage and customer feedback. The modules must cover a range of topics including academic content aligned with the Common Core State Standards, closing the educational opportunity gap, and topics of particular interest to principals.

The Steering Committee must submit a status report by December 1, 2015, including data on usage, costs to refresh the modules, expanding and improving the Project, and recommendations for how teachers might use the modules to earn in-service credit on the state salary schedule.

The Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee must conduct an analysis that examines the level of resources and sources of funds expended on professional development for teachers and principals, the type and content of professional development, and the basis for selection of the content. The analysis must include traditional and non-traditional, job-embedded forms of professional development. A report is due by December 1, 2014.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.