

ESSB 5878 - H COMM AMD
By Committee on Education

ADOPTED AND ENGROSSED 3/3/2022

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) Washington state has long led the way
4 in creating arts education policy. Washington state was one of the
5 first states to adopt visual and performing arts graduation
6 requirements. Our state has a two-credit visual and performing arts
7 graduation requirement, although the second credit may be waived in
8 certain circumstances. Our state has also been a leader by formally
9 declaring the arts including dance, music, theatre, visual arts, and
10 media as core content areas in the definition of basic education.
11 However, there is a very large gap between policy and practice in our
12 state. While most high schools offer a range of arts courses, it is
13 not uncommon for middle schools to offer only one of the arts,
14 usually music, and for elementary schools to offer no formal arts
15 instruction at all, during the regular school day. When arts
16 instruction is offered, it is often as an extracurricular activity, a
17 volunteer docent program, or as a program which meets far less often
18 than other core subjects do. Further, students who perform poorly on
19 standardized tests in math and English often have what little arts
20 instruction they would normally receive taken away, in favor of
21 remediation in the test subject areas. Our students who live in low
22 socioeconomic areas tend to perform worse on standardized tests. As a
23 result, poorer students in our state tend to be denied arts
24 instruction at a higher rate than students from economically stable
25 homes and neighborhoods. The evidence of the multiple benefits of
26 arts education is voluminous and undeniable. The arts are not only a
27 vehicle for doing better at other subjects; they have immense value
28 in their own right and should be taught as stand-alone disciplines,
29 the way our laws and policies are written.

30 (2) The legislature intends to clarify, for schools and school
31 districts, the importance of arts education and to bring our schools'
32 practices in line with our state and federal laws and policies, and

1 the promises made to our communities, by ensuring formal instruction
2 in the core disciplines of visual and performing arts for all
3 Washington students, regardless of their family's socioeconomic
4 status or the relative affluence of the neighborhood in which they
5 live. The legislature recognizes and supports that the best practice
6 is for basic education courses, including the arts, to be taught by
7 certificated teachers who are qualified through an endorsement to
8 teach in the subject area of the course. However, the legislature
9 acknowledges that there is a shortage of arts endorsed teachers in
10 Washington, so intends to allow arts instruction to also be provided
11 by certificated teachers actively pursuing an endorsement in the
12 relevant arts discipline.

13 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.230.020 and 2013 c 23 s 48 are each amended to
14 read as follows:

15 All common schools shall give instruction in reading,
16 handwriting, orthography, written and mental arithmetic, geography,
17 the history of the United States, English grammar, visual and
18 performing arts, physiology and hygiene with special reference to the
19 effects of alcohol and drug abuse on the human system, science with
20 special reference to the environment, and such other studies as may
21 be prescribed by rule of the superintendent of public instruction.
22 All teachers shall stress the importance of the cultivation of
23 manners, the fundamental principles of honesty, honor, industry and
24 economy, the minimum requisites for good health including the
25 beneficial effect of physical exercise and methods to prevent
26 exposure to and transmission of sexually transmitted diseases, and
27 the worth of kindness to all living creatures and the land. The
28 prevention of child abuse may be offered as part of the curriculum in
29 the common schools.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.230
31 RCW to read as follows:

32 (1) Beginning with the 2023-24 school year, school districts with
33 more than 200 enrolled students shall offer regular instruction in at
34 least one visual art or at least one performing art, throughout the
35 school year. Each student must receive instruction in at least one
36 arts discipline throughout their elementary and middle education
37 experience. For grades nine through 12, all students must be given
38 the opportunity to take arts coursework each academic year.

1 (2) Every student must have access to arts education, as part of
2 basic education under RCW 28A.150.210. Arts instruction must be
3 accessible by all students, in a manner that is commensurate with
4 instruction in other core subject areas.

5 (3)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, arts
6 instruction must be provided by either: A certificated teacher with
7 an endorsement in the relevant arts discipline; or a certificated
8 teacher actively pursuing an endorsement in the relevant arts
9 discipline.

10 (b) A person holding a limited teaching certificate may provide
11 arts instruction while either: (i) The school district recruits and
12 hires a certificated teacher with the qualifications provided in (a)
13 of this subsection; or (ii) the certificated teacher with
14 qualifications provided in (a) of this subsection takes leave as
15 provided in the school district's written leave policy required by
16 RCW 28A.400.300.

17 (4) Instruction under this section must be solely for the arts
18 discipline in the skills and craft of each specific arts discipline
19 as their own end, rather than as a vehicle to enhance learning in any
20 other nonarts subject area. If schools wish to integrate or infuse
21 the arts into other subject matter, they must do so in addition to
22 the regular, formal arts instruction required by this section.

23 (5) The arts instructors in each school district, as subject
24 matter experts, shall be consulted to determine which specific visual
25 and performing arts courses to offer at given grade levels, so that
26 instruction is properly aligned to state learning standards in the
27 arts and students' developmental stages and vertically aligned to
28 give arts-focused students the best chance for success in their arts
29 college or career pathway.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.710
31 RCW to read as follows:

32 Section 3 of this act, related to arts instruction, governs
33 school operation and management under RCW 28A.710.040 and applies to
34 charter schools with more than 200 enrolled students established
35 under this chapter.

36 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.715
37 RCW to read as follows:

1 Section 3 of this act, related to arts instruction, governs
2 school operation and management under RCW 28A.715.020 and applies to
3 state-tribal education compact schools with more than 200 enrolled
4 students established under this chapter."

5 Correct the title.

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