
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1941

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1995 Regular Session

By House Committee on Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Johnson, Brumsickle, Talcott and Thompson)

Read first time 03/01/95.

1 AN ACT Relating to the improvement of reading literacy; amending
2 RCW 28A.300.138 and 28A.165.040; adding a new section to chapter
3 28A.630 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the ability to
6 read with comprehension and skill is essential for success in school,
7 and for success in future life. As we enter into the 21st century, the
8 ability to read is critical to personal and family prosperity. It is
9 the intent of the legislature to improve student learning by focusing
10 on reading literacy in our public schools.

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

13 (1) The elementary grades assessment developed by the commission on
14 student learning under RCW 28A.630.885(3)(b)(i) shall ensure that all
15 students are assessed for reading literacy skills no later than the
16 middle of third grade and at other appropriate grade levels.
17 Notwithstanding the assessment implementation dates in RCW 28A.630.885,

1 the reading assessment required before the middle of third grade shall
2 be implemented state-wide in the 1996-97 school year.

3 (2) The information provided by the reading assessment shall be
4 used by all school districts to improve reading programs to meet
5 identified student needs, and to identify students who are reading
6 below state reading standards. School districts shall provide reading
7 assistance to students who are identified in the assessment as reading
8 below state standards. The type of assistance to be provided shall be
9 determined by schools and school districts.

10 (3) Districts shall annually reassess students who have not
11 achieved state reading standards. Districts shall continue to provide
12 appropriate reading assistance until students meet or exceed state
13 standards.

14 (4) Students not meeting state reading standards shall be placed in
15 a concentrated reading program and will attain the required reading
16 standard before entering the fourth grade.

17 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.300.138 and 1994 c 245 s 1 are each amended to
18 read as follows:

19 (1)(a) To the extent funds are appropriated, the office of the
20 superintendent of public instruction shall provide student learning
21 improvement grants for the 1994-95 through 1996-97 school years. The
22 purpose of the grants is to provide funds for additional time and
23 resources for site-based planning activities and staff development and
24 planning intended to improve student learning for all students,
25 including students with diverse needs, consistent with the student
26 learning goals in RCW 28A.150.210.

27 (b) State evaluations and findings on the schools for the twenty-
28 first century program, as well as national research, indicate that
29 extra time for site-based planning activities and staff development and
30 planning for school improvement efforts is critical to the success of
31 such efforts. It is the intent of the legislature that school
32 districts use the funds under this section to provide time and
33 resources for site-based planning activities and staff development and
34 planning that is in addition to locally funded extra time and resources
35 provided for purposes of improving student learning. Districts are
36 strongly encouraged not to supplant local funds with state funds
37 provided under this section.

1 (2) To be eligible for student learning improvement grants, school
2 district boards of directors shall:

3 (a) Adopt a policy regarding the involvement of school staff,
4 parents, and community members in instructional decisions;

5 (b) Submit school-based applications that have been developed by
6 school building personnel, parents, and community members. Each
7 application shall:

8 (i) Enumerate specific activities to be carried out as part of the
9 grant;

10 (ii) Identify the technical resources desired and availability of
11 those resources;

12 (iii) Include a proposed budget; and

13 (iv) Indicate that the application was approved by the school
14 principal and representatives of teachers, classified employees,
15 parents, and the community.

16 (3) Before the 1996-97 school year, elementary schools receiving
17 student learning improvement grants shall take actions designed to
18 ensure that students meet or exceed the essential academic learning
19 requirements for reading.

20 (4) The school board shall conduct at least one public hearing on
21 schools' plans for using the grants before the board approves the
22 plans. Boards may hear and approve more than one school's plan at a
23 hearing. The board shall only submit applications for grants to the
24 superintendent of public instruction if the board has approved the
25 plans.

26 ((+4)) (5) If the application is consistent with the purposes of
27 the grant program and the requirements of subsections (2) and ((+3))
28 (4) of this section are met, the superintendent of public instruction
29 shall approve the grant application.

30 ((+5)) (6) To the extent funds are appropriated, and for
31 allocation purposes only, the amount of grants for the 1994-95, 1995-
32 96, and 1996-97 school years shall be based on time equivalent to up to
33 four days depending upon the number of grant applications received and
34 on the number of full-time equivalent certificated staff who work in
35 the school. Funds from the grant may be used to pay for staff
36 development and planning for certificated and classified staff and
37 site-based planning activities. Site-based planning activities and
38 staff development and planning conducted pursuant to this section also
39 may be conducted during the months of July and August preceding each

1 school year for which the school has received a grant. Expenses
2 occurring as a result of these summer site-based planning activities
3 and staff development and planning may be paid from the school year
4 grant. School districts shall use all funds received under this
5 section solely for grants to schools and shall not use any portion of
6 the funds for indirect costs.

7 ~~((+6))~~ (7) The state schools for the deaf and blind may apply for
8 grants under this section.

9 ~~((+7))~~ (8) The superintendent of public instruction shall adopt
10 timelines and rules as necessary under chapter 34.05 RCW to administer
11 the program. The superintendent may modify application requirements
12 for schools that have schools for the twenty-first century projects
13 under RCW 28A.630.100.

14 ~~((+8))~~ (9) The superintendent of public instruction shall report
15 annually to the legislature by December 1st the following information:

16 (a) The use of the funds granted under this section;

17 (b) An estimate of any increase in staff development and planning
18 in the 1994-95, 1995-96, and 1996-97 school years respectively, above
19 that in the 1993-94 school year; and

20 (c) An estimate of any increase in site-based planning activities
21 in the 1994-95, 1995-96, and 1996-97 school years respectively, above
22 that in the 1993-94 school year.

23 ~~((+9))~~ (10) Funding under this section shall not become a part of
24 the state's basic program of education obligation as set forth under
25 Article IX of the state Constitution.

26 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28A.165.040 and 1990 c 33 s 149 are each amended to
27 read as follows:

28 Each school district which applies for state funds distributed
29 pursuant to RCW 28A.165.070 shall conduct a needs assessment and, on
30 the basis of its findings, shall develop a plan for the use of these
31 funds. The plan may incorporate plans developed by each eligible
32 school. Districts ~~((are encouraged to))~~ shall place special emphasis
33 on addressing the ~~((needs))~~ reading skills of students in the early
34 grades. The needs assessment and plan shall be updated at least
35 biennially, and shall be determined in consultation with an advisory
36 committee including but not limited to members of the following groups:
37 Parents, including parents of students served by the program; teachers;
38 principals; administrators; and school directors. The district shall

1 submit a biennial application specifying this plan to the office of the
2 superintendent of public instruction for approval. Plans shall
3 include:

4 (1) The means which the district will use to identify participating
5 students to receive additional services or support under the proposed
6 program;

7 (2) The specific services or activities which the funds will be
8 used to support, and their estimated costs;

9 (3) A plan for annual evaluation of the program by the district,
10 based on performance objectives related to basic skills achievement of
11 participating students, and a plan for reporting the results of this
12 evaluation to the superintendent of public instruction;

13 (4) Procedures for recordkeeping or other program documentation as
14 may be required by the superintendent of public instruction; and

15 (5) The approval of the local school district board of directors.

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