
HOUSE BILL 1941

State of Washington 54th Legislature 1995 Regular Session

By Representatives Johnson, Brumsickle, Talcott and Thompson

Read first time 02/15/95. Referred to Committee on Education.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6 (ii) Identify the technical resources desired and availability of
7 those resources;

8 (iii) Include a proposed budget; and

9 (iv) Indicate that the application was approved by the school
10 principal and representatives of teachers, classified employees,
11 parents, and the community.

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

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

22 (~~(+4)~~) (5) If the application is consistent with the purposes of
23 the grant program and the requirements of subsections (2) and (~~(+3)~~)
24 (4) of this section are met, the superintendent of public instruction
25 shall approve the grant application.

26 (~~(+5)~~) (6) To the extent funds are appropriated, and for
27 allocation purposes only, the amount of grants for the 1994-95, 1995-
28 96, and 1996-97 school years shall be based on time equivalent to up to
29 four days depending upon the number of grant applications received and
30 on the number of full-time equivalent certificated staff who work in
31 the school. Funds from the grant may be used to pay for staff
32 development and planning for certificated and classified staff and
33 site-based planning activities. Site-based planning activities and
34 staff development and planning conducted pursuant to this section also
35 may be conducted during the months of July and August preceding each
36 school year for which the school has received a grant. Expenses
37 occurring as a result of these summer site-based planning activities
38 and staff development and planning may be paid from the school year
39 grant. School districts shall use all funds received under this

1 section solely for grants to schools and shall not use any portion of
2 the funds for indirect costs.

3 ~~((+6))~~ (7) The state schools for the deaf and blind may apply for
4 grants under this section.

5 ~~((+7))~~ (8) The superintendent of public instruction shall adopt
6 timelines and rules as necessary under chapter 34.05 RCW to administer
7 the program. The superintendent may modify application requirements
8 for schools that have schools for the twenty-first century projects
9 under RCW 28A.630.100.

10 ~~((+8))~~ (9) The superintendent of public instruction shall report
11 annually to the legislature by December 1st the following information:

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

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

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

19 ~~((+9))~~ (10) Funding under this section shall not become a part of
20 the state's basic program of education obligation as set forth under
21 Article IX of the state Constitution.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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