
HOUSE BILL 2425

State of Washington 54th Legislature 1996 Regular Session

By Representatives Elliot, Patterson, Keiser and Thompson

Read first time 01/10/96. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to incentives for high schools to adopt the
2 international baccalaureate program; creating new sections; making an
3 appropriation; and providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that it is essential
6 that we raise the academic rigor of the curriculum in our public
7 schools. If our children are going to be able to compete in the
8 increasingly global economy and lead satisfying and productive lives,
9 they must be offered an educational program that has high standards in
10 academically challenging subject areas.

11 The legislature further finds that the international baccalaureate
12 program achieves this goal of having high standards in academically
13 challenging subject areas. The international baccalaureate program,
14 which is voluntarily adopted by high schools, includes two years of
15 study and a carefully controlled system of examinations. The
16 curriculum includes English, a foreign language, history, philosophy,
17 chemistry, biology, physics, mathematics, and an elective. The diploma
18 earned in the international baccalaureate program is recognized as an

1 automatic admission standard to colleges and universities in more than
2 forty nations throughout the world.

3 The legislature further finds that five high schools in the state
4 of Washington are involved in the program, and that additional high
5 schools would adopt the international baccalaureate program if
6 financial assistance were available to help pay for the application
7 fees, staff training costs, and other expenses.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The superintendent of public instruction
9 shall award incentive grants to high schools for the purpose of
10 adopting the international baccalaureate program. The grants shall be
11 used to pay for application fees, staff training costs, and other
12 expenses associated with adopting the program. The superintendent
13 shall require that high schools provide local funding that meets or
14 exceeds the amount of the grant. The maximum amount of a grant shall
15 be twenty-five thousand dollars. If the amount of appropriated funds
16 prevents the superintendent from awarding twenty-five thousand dollar
17 grants to all high schools that apply, the amount of the grant to each
18 high school shall be prorated. The superintendent shall award the
19 grants no later than November 15, 1996.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The sum of one hundred thousand dollars, or
21 as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the biennium
22 ending June 30, 1997, from the general fund to the superintendent of
23 public instruction for the purposes of this act.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act shall expire December 31, 1996.

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