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HOUSE BILL 2909

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State of Washington

54th Legislature

1996 Regular Session

By Representatives Johnson, Brumsickle, Cole, Talcott, Quall, Radcliff, McMahan, Hymes, Smith, Lambert, Thompson, Hatfield, Stevens, Boldt, Koster, McMorris, Elliot, Silver, Pelesky, Clements, Cooke, Benton, Carrell, Sheldon, Basich, Linville, Skinner, Robertson, Blanton, Huff, Hickel, Goldsmith, Campbell and Casada

Read first time 01/24/96. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to improving reading literacy; amending RCW  
2 28A.300.130; adding new sections to chapter 28A.300 RCW; creating a new  
3 section; making appropriations; providing an expiration date; and  
4 declaring an emergency.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300  
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 (1) The center for the improvement of student learning, or its  
9 designee, shall develop and implement a process for identifying  
10 programs that have been proven to be effective using scientifically  
11 valid research in teaching elementary students to read. The  
12 identification process shall be designed to be ongoing until December  
13 31, 2000, and shall allow additional programs to be reviewed after the  
14 initial identification of programs.

15 (2) In identifying effective reading programs, the center for the  
16 improvement of student learning, or its designee, shall consult primary  
17 education teachers, state-wide reading organizations, institutions of  
18 higher education, the commission on student learning, legislators, and  
19 other appropriate individuals and organizations.

1 (3) In identifying effective reading programs, the following  
2 criteria shall be used:

3 (a) Whether the program has achieved documented results for  
4 students on valid and reliable assessments;

5 (b) Whether the results of the program have been replicated at  
6 different locations over a period of time;

7 (c) Whether the requirements and specifications for implementing  
8 the program are clear so that potential users can clearly determine the  
9 requirements of the program and how to implement it;

10 (d) Whether, when considering the cost of implementing the program,  
11 the program is cost-effective relative to other similar types of  
12 programs; and

13 (e) Other appropriate criteria and considerations.

14 (4) The initial identification of effective reading programs shall  
15 be completed and a list of the identified programs prepared by December  
16 15, 1996.

17 (5) The legislative budget committee, or its designee, shall  
18 evaluate the effectiveness of the identification process and its effect  
19 on improving reading instruction, and report to the appropriate  
20 committees of the legislature by December 1, 1999. The report shall  
21 include a description of safeguards enacted to ensure the scientific  
22 integrity and objectivity of this section and sections 2 and 3 of this  
23 act.

24 (6) This section shall expire December 31, 2000.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** After effective reading programs have been  
26 identified in accordance with section 1 of this act, the prepared list  
27 and any future changes shall be reviewed and approved by the house of  
28 representatives and senate education committees.

29 Upon initial approval by the house of representatives and senate  
30 education committees, the superintendent of public instruction shall  
31 establish a grant program to provide incentives for teachers, schools,  
32 and school districts to use the identified programs on the approved  
33 list in grades kindergarten through four. Schools, school districts,  
34 and educational service districts may apply for grants. Funds for the  
35 grants shall be used for in-service training and instructional  
36 material. Grants shall be awarded no later than July 1, 1997.  
37 Priority shall be given to grant applications involving schools and

1 school districts with mean percentile scores below forty on the state-  
2 wide fourth grade assessment required under RCW 28A.230.190.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300  
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 (1) After effective programs have been identified in accordance  
6 with section 1 of this act, the center for the improvement of student  
7 learning, or its designee, shall provide information and take other  
8 appropriate steps to inform elementary school teachers, principals,  
9 curriculum directors, superintendents, school board members, college  
10 and university reading instruction faculty, and others of its findings.

11 (2) The center, in cooperation with state-wide organizations  
12 interested in improving literacy, also shall develop and implement  
13 strategies to improve reading instruction in the state, with a special  
14 emphasis on the instruction of reading in the primary grades using the  
15 effective reading programs that have been identified in accordance with  
16 section 1 of this act. The strategies may include, but should not be  
17 limited to, expanding and improving reading instruction of elementary  
18 school teachers in teacher preparation programs, expanded in-service  
19 training in reading instruction, the training of paraprofessionals and  
20 volunteers in reading instruction, improving classroom-based assessment  
21 of reading, and increasing state-wide and regional technical assistance  
22 in reading instruction.

23 (3) The center shall submit a status report to appropriate  
24 committees of the legislature by December 31, 1996, regarding its  
25 efforts to implement section 1 of this act and subsections (1) and (2)  
26 of this section. The report shall include a description of safeguards  
27 enacted to ensure the scientific integrity and objectivity of the  
28 assistance and advice provided by the center.

29 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28A.300.130 and 1993 c 336 s 501 are each amended to  
30 read as follows:

31 (1) Expanding activity in educational research, educational  
32 restructuring, and educational improvement initiatives has produced and  
33 continues to produce much valuable information. The legislature finds  
34 that such information should be shared with the citizens and  
35 educational community of the state as widely as possible. To  
36 facilitate access to information and materials on educational  
37 improvement and research, the superintendent of public instruction, to

1 the extent funds are appropriated, shall establish the center for the  
2 improvement of student learning. The primary purpose of the center is  
3 to provide assistance and advice to parents, school board members,  
4 educators, and the public regarding strategies for assisting students  
5 in learning the essential academic learning requirements pursuant to  
6 RCW 28A.630.885. The center shall work in conjunction with the  
7 commission on student learning, educational service districts, and  
8 institutions of higher education.

9 (2) The center shall:

10 (a) Serve as a clearinghouse for the completed work and activities  
11 of the commission on student learning;

12 (b) Serve as a clearinghouse for information regarding successful  
13 educational restructuring and parental involvement programs in schools  
14 and districts, and information about efforts within institutions of  
15 higher education in the state to support educational restructuring  
16 initiatives in Washington schools and districts;

17 (c) Provide best practices research and advice that can be used to  
18 help schools develop and implement: Programs and practices to improve  
19 reading instruction; school improvement plans; school-based shared  
20 decision-making models; programs to promote lifelong learning and  
21 community involvement in education; school-to-work transition programs;  
22 programs to meet the needs of highly capable students; programs to meet  
23 the diverse needs of students based on gender, racial, ethnic,  
24 economic, and special needs status; and other programs that will assist  
25 educators in helping students learn the essential academic learning  
26 requirements;

27 (d) Develop and distribute, in conjunction with the commission on  
28 student learning, parental involvement materials, including  
29 instructional guides developed to inform parents of the essential  
30 academic learning requirements. The instructional guides also shall  
31 contain actions parents may take to assist their children in meeting  
32 the requirements, and should focus on reaching parents who have not  
33 previously been involved with their children's education;

34 (e) Identify obstacles to greater parent and community involvement  
35 in school shared decision-making processes and recommend strategies for  
36 helping parents and community members to participate effectively in  
37 school shared decision-making processes, including understanding and  
38 respecting the roles of school building administrators and staff;

1 (f) Take other actions to increase public awareness of the  
2 importance of parental and community involvement in education;

3 (g) Work with appropriate organizations to inform teachers,  
4 district and school administrators, and school directors about the  
5 waivers available under RCW 28A.305.140 and the broadened school board  
6 powers under RCW 28A.320.015;

7 (h) Provide training and consultation services;

8 (i) Address methods for improving the success rates of certain  
9 ethnic and racial student groups; and

10 (j) Perform other functions consistent with the purpose of the  
11 center as prescribed in subsection (1) of this section.

12 (3) The superintendent of public instruction, after consultation  
13 with the commission on student learning, shall select and employ a  
14 director for the center.

15 (4) The superintendent may enter into contracts with individuals or  
16 organizations including but not limited to: School districts;  
17 teachers; higher education faculty; institutions of higher education;  
18 state agencies; business or community-based organizations; and other  
19 individuals and organizations to accomplish the duties and  
20 responsibilities of the center. The superintendent shall contract out  
21 with community-based organizations to meet the provisions of subsection  
22 (2) (d) and (e) of this section. In carrying out the duties and  
23 responsibilities of the center, the superintendent, whenever possible,  
24 shall use practitioners to assist agency staff as well as assist  
25 educators and others in schools and districts.

26 (5) The superintendent shall report annually to the commission on  
27 student learning on the activities of the center.

28 NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. (1) The sum of fifty thousand dollars, or as  
29 much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year  
30 ending June 30, 1997, from the general fund to the superintendent of  
31 public instruction for the purposes of section 1 of this act.

32 (2) The sum of one million dollars, or as much thereof as may be  
33 necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1997,  
34 from the general fund to the superintendent of public instruction for  
35 the purposes of section 2 of this act.

36 (3) The sum of fifty thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be  
37 necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1997,

1 from the general fund to the superintendent of public instruction for  
2 the purposes of section 3 of this act.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
4 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
5 state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take  
6 effect immediately.

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