
SENATE BILL 6007

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1995 Regular Session

By Senators Johnson, Hochstatter, Finkbeiner, A. Anderson, Oke, Swecker, Roach, Strannigan, Palmer and McCaslin

Read first time 02/22/95. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to a program for educational advancement grants in
2 designated urban areas; and adding new sections to chapter 74.13 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that students are
5 enriched by choices in appropriate educational alternatives. The
6 legislature further finds that students of preschool, elementary, and
7 junior and senior high school age in our large urban areas would
8 benefit by educational alternatives and opportunities not otherwise
9 economically available to them, and that such opportunities would be
10 especially beneficial to students from minority and economically
11 disadvantaged families. Furthermore, the empowerment of parents and
12 guardians of such students, through an educational advancement grant
13 program, would strengthen both public and alternative educational
14 offerings, and would increase the academic performance of economically
15 deprived urban city youth. In addition, the legislature finds that the
16 program authorized by sections 1 through 7 of this act is necessary for
17 the support of economically disadvantaged and low-income families, and
18 especially of the children of economically disadvantaged and low-income
19 urban families.

1 For these reasons, the legislature believes that a pilot program of
2 educational advancement grants to economically disadvantaged families
3 should be adopted. Such grants would be used for tuition and other
4 education costs at both public and approved private schools.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The state shall establish an educational
6 advancement grant program to carry out the purposes of section 1 of
7 this act by September 1, 1995. This program shall expire June 30,
8 1997, and shall be implemented along the following schedule:

9 (a) For the 1995-96 school year: Fifty grants;

10 (b) For the 1996-97 school year: Fifty grants.

11 (2) The program shall be implemented with volunteers in the
12 Seattle, Tacoma, and Spokane school districts. There shall be twenty
13 grants available in Seattle and Tacoma and ten in Spokane each year.

14 (3) Those eligible for the grants authorized in subsection (1) of
15 this section are students of families whose income level is no greater
16 than one hundred seventy-five percent of the federal poverty level, or
17 educational advancement foundations that would use the grants for the
18 benefit of students who would otherwise be eligible under this
19 subsection.

20 (4) Grants created under subsection (1) of this section may be used
21 at any educational institution certified under RCW 28A.150.220 or
22 28A.195.010.

23 (5) If applications exceed the number of designated grants, the
24 choice of grant recipients shall be made by a lottery system, as
25 designed by rule by the superintendent of public instruction.

26 (6) Each individual grant shall be eighty-five percent of the
27 amount of state per pupil apportionment to school districts.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) Grant payments shall be made by the
29 superintendent of public instruction and the secretary of social and
30 health services in one of two methods: Either directly to parents or
31 guardians of students whose families qualify for the grant program, or
32 to educational advancement foundations. The parents or guardians, or
33 educational advancement foundations, shall use grant funds at any
34 public or private school qualified under section 2 of this act.
35 Accompanying the initial grant authorization from the department of
36 social and health services shall be a grant acceptance to be cosigned
37 either by a qualified parent or guardian or appropriate foundation

1 official, as determined in section 2 of this act, and an executive or
2 financial officer of the school. No final payment may be made for any
3 grant until the department has received the cosigned acceptance for the
4 grant.

5 (2) Grant moneys received or authorized by a parent or guardian, or
6 by an appropriate foundation to be received by a qualified school, may
7 be used for tuition and other educational costs at any qualified public
8 or private school.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** "Educational advancement foundation" means
10 a foundation incorporated under the Washington nonprofit corporation
11 act, the primary purpose of which is to enhance educational
12 opportunities for students from economically poor backgrounds and
13 environments. Foundations are eligible to receive grant funds under
14 the program authorized in sections 1 through 7 of this act, as well as
15 encouraged to receive funding from individuals, corporations, other
16 foundations, and other persons interested in improving educational
17 opportunities for the poor. The superintendent of public instruction
18 and the secretary of social and health services shall maintain a
19 register of such foundations.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The superintendent of public instruction
21 shall report to the education committees of the senate and the house of
22 representatives, the office of financial management, the department of
23 social and health services, and the state board of education on the
24 results of the pilot project established by section 2(1) of this act.
25 The report shall be completed and filed by January 10, 1996, and again
26 on January 10, 1997.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** (1) The department of social and health
28 services, the office of financial management, the superintendent of
29 public instruction, and the state board of education shall cooperate
30 with each other in implementing the program authorized by sections 1
31 through 7 of this act, and may enter into agreements with each other,
32 other state or local government agencies, and any federal government
33 agencies necessary to implement this program.

34 (2) The superintendent of public instruction and the secretary of
35 social and health services may adopt rules necessary to implement
36 sections 1 through 7 of this act.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Access to the benefits of the program
2 authorized by sections 1 through 6 of this act shall be available to
3 all qualifying students, regardless of race, creed, religious
4 affiliation, physical or sensory handicap, intellectual ability, or
5 academic history.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** Grants shall be made by the superintendent
7 of public instruction and the secretary of social and health services
8 from the amount of state apportionment distributed according to state
9 formula to students and families residing in Seattle, Spokane, and
10 Tacoma school districts.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** Sections 1 through 8 of this act are each
12 added to chapter 74.13 RCW.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** If any provision of this act or its
14 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
15 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
16 persons or circumstances is not affected.

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