
HOUSE BILL 2055

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Representatives Talcott, Haigh, Bush, D. Schmidt, Cox, Anderson and Skinner

Read first time 02/13/2001. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to providing students with increased opportunities
2 to learn in schools where people are treated with respect and civility;
3 and creating new sections.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature declares that students need
6 and deserve a safe and civil school environment in order to learn and
7 achieve high academic standards. The legislature also finds that
8 harassment, intimidation, bullying, and other disruptive or violent
9 behaviors impair learning opportunities for individual and groups of
10 students and, at times, make students who observe and receive the brunt
11 of those behaviors feel that school is not a safe place in which to
12 learn and grow. The legislature also finds that students should learn
13 to treat all people with respect and that schools have an opportunity
14 to assist their students in learning the importance of treating all
15 people with respect and civility. The legislature further finds that
16 when character education is integrated into a school's curriculum,
17 there is a decline of incidences involving violence, bullying, and
18 harassment, an increase in student attendance rates, and an enhancement
19 of student learning opportunities in the positive school climate that

1 results from the programs. The legislature intends to support programs
2 that local communities, in partnership with schools or school
3 districts, will design. However, the legislature intends that each of
4 these education programs include components that help students learn
5 the importance of treating each other and all people with respect and
6 civility.

7 Furthermore, the legislature finds that students learn by example.
8 The legislature commends school administrators, faculty, staff, and
9 volunteers for demonstrating appropriate behavior, treating others with
10 civility and respect, and refusing to tolerate harassment,
11 intimidation, or bullying.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) Subject to availability of amounts
13 appropriated for this specific purpose, the office of the
14 superintendent of public instruction shall provide to each school
15 district that develops and implements a character education program
16 that meets the requirements of subsection (2) of this section, an equal
17 amount per full-time equivalent student for the biennium ending June
18 30, 2003. However, the minimum allocation to a district shall be two
19 hundred dollars for each school operated by the district.

20 (2) Each character education program shall be developed by locally
21 elected school directors, in partnership with parents and all
22 interested stakeholders in the local community. In addition to other
23 character traits and values emphasized, each program shall include an
24 emphasis on the importance of respectful speech and conduct and shall
25 recognize the responsibility of each adult in the school to refuse to
26 tolerate the harassment, intimidation, or bullying of students or staff
27 by anyone in the school.

28 (3) A school district that receives funding in accordance with this
29 section shall certify to the superintendent of public instruction that
30 funds received were expended for the purposes of this act.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** If specific funding for the purposes of this
32 act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by
33 June 30, 2001, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and
34 void.

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