
HOUSE BILL 2720

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By Representatives Quall and Haigh; by request of State Board of Education

Read first time 01/24/2002. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to balanced student achievement calendar planning
2 grants; creating a new section; making an appropriation; and providing
3 an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The state board of education finds that
6 research supports advantages to student learning from the use of
7 calendars balanced for learning, instruction, and retention, such as:

8 (a) Reduction of summer learning loss;

9 (b) Opportunities for increased learning time, which helps all
10 students;

11 (c) Opportunities for intervention throughout the academic year,
12 which helps prevent learning problems and learning failure;

13 (d) Better attendance by students and teachers;

14 (e) Decreased student discipline referrals;

15 (f) Decreased student vandalism;

16 (g) Lower dropout rate; and

17 (h) Continuous learning and preparation for state-mandated testing.

18 (2) The board further finds that calendars balanced for
19 achievement, separated by vacation and intersession enrichment and

1 remediation periods, can provide benefits for school staff planning and
2 professional development, facility use, and increased vacation
3 flexibility for families and staff not otherwise available from the
4 traditional school calendar.

5 (3)(a) The superintendent of public instruction, in consultation
6 with the state board of education, shall award planning grants to
7 schools or school districts seeking to develop and implement a balanced
8 student achievement calendar. For the purpose of this section, a
9 "balanced student achievement calendar" means a school year of one
10 hundred eighty days that are distributed over a twelve-month period,
11 during which time the school year calendar schedules regular student
12 instructional days of one week or more in eleven of the twelve months,
13 and summer break is six weeks, thereby allowing for intersession
14 instructional periods.

15 (b) The intent of the grant program is to facilitate the
16 development and implementation of balanced student achievement
17 calendars that provide more continuous periods of learning and
18 instruction as relates to student promotion, enrichment, acceleration,
19 and remediation, and opportunities for extended time or days for
20 additional learning opportunities for all students to meet their
21 individual learning needs.

22 (4) The superintendent of public instruction and the state board of
23 education shall submit a joint report to the education committees of
24 the legislature not later than January 30, 2004, on the number of
25 grants awarded and the types of balanced student achievement calendars
26 implemented.

27 (5) This section expires June 30, 2004.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The sum of one hundred twenty-five
29 thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is
30 appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003, from the general
31 fund to the superintendent of public instruction for the purposes of
32 this act.

33 (2) Not more than twenty-five thousand dollars of the appropriation
34 in this section may be used by the superintendent of public instruction
35 for administrative purposes.

36 (3) Not more than twenty-five thousand dollars of the appropriation
37 in this section may be used for a pregrant application forum to expand
38 public awareness of balanced student achievement calendars and provide

- 1 potential grant applicants with information to assist in submitting
- 2 focused and thoughtful applications.

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