
SENATE BILL 5663

State of Washington **57th Legislature** **2001 Regular Session**

By Senators Finkbeiner, Oke and Kohl-Welles

Read first time 01/30/2001. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a small personalized schools pilot
2 project; adding a new chapter to Title 28A RCW; and providing an
3 expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that a large and
6 growing body of research supports the premise that all students learn
7 more, perform better, and exhibit more responsible and respectful
8 behavior in schools where they are known personally and as individuals
9 by the adults in the school.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The definition in this section applies
11 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

12 "Personalized school" means a school with each of the following
13 characteristics:

14 (1) The school enrolls no more than two hundred seventy-five
15 students if it is an elementary school, or no more than four hundred
16 forty students if it is a middle, junior high, or high school with
17 three or four grade levels;

1 (2) Every teacher at the school works with every student assigned
2 to his or her classroom for a minimum of two consecutive years;

3 (3) The school develops and implements a plan for high levels of
4 parental involvement in which parents are directly engaged in
5 supporting their child's learning and in which parents play a
6 significant role in school governance;

7 (4) The school develops a governance plan which involves an
8 administrator, teachers, parents and other community members, and, if
9 it is a secondary school, the students; and

10 (5) The school develops a philosophy and mission which focuses on
11 the personalization of learning and academic and personal success for
12 each student. The school embodies its philosophy and mission in its
13 daily operations and activities.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A personalized schools research and
15 development program is established to study the extent to which
16 personalized schools can result in increased academic and personal
17 achievement for students in public schools. The program is intended to
18 determine the capacity of personalized schools to promote higher
19 academic achievement, as measured by performance on the Washington
20 assessment of student learning, and personal achievement, as measured
21 by retention and graduation rates, student behavior, student, parent,
22 and teacher satisfaction, and other relevant data. The legislature
23 intends for this pilot program to operate five full school years, to
24 include evaluation of personalized schools, and to publish and
25 disseminate the results of the project's research and findings for the
26 benefit of the entire state.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The superintendent of public instruction
28 shall develop a process for school districts to apply for grant funding
29 to participate in the personalized schools research and development
30 program. School districts may apply on behalf of existing schools that
31 intend to meet the program requirements or on behalf of proposed new
32 schools to be created in order to meet the program requirements. In
33 order to be eligible to participate in the program, a school must have
34 its own leadership, staff, and governance, but may share a common
35 school building with another school in the district. The school-
36 within-a-school model program and the academic house model program may

1 not be employed by schools participating in the program established by
2 this chapter.

3 (2) The superintendent shall appoint a selection committee to
4 review applications and, to the extent funding is provided for this
5 program, select up to fifty schools to participate from among qualified
6 applicants. The selection committee shall include one member of the
7 superintendent's office, two teachers from schools in a district not
8 applying for a grant under the program, one administrator from a school
9 district which has not applied for a grant under the program, one
10 representative from an institution of higher education, and two
11 additional members.

12 (3) The selection committee shall attempt to select approximately
13 equal numbers of schools enrolling elementary school students, middle
14 or junior high school students, and high school students. The
15 selection committee shall make every possible effort to award grants to
16 at least nine schools in each of the three categories of school:
17 Elementary, middle or junior high, and high school. The selection
18 committee shall also endeavor to balance grants among schools serving
19 urban, suburban, and rural communities and to achieve geographic
20 balance in grant awards to include all regions of the state.

21 (4) The selection committee shall determine the grant award
22 recipients by December 10, 2001, and inform all applicants of its
23 decisions by December 18, 2001.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) Applications for grants under this
25 chapter must be submitted to the superintendent by November 1, 2001.

26 (2) Each application on behalf of an existing school must include:

27 (a) A description of how the school currently satisfies all of the
28 conditions set forth in the definition of a personalized school, as
29 provided in section 2 of this act, or a description of how the school
30 plans to satisfy those conditions by September 1, 2002;

31 (b) A statement of the applicant school's understanding of the
32 value of personalization in education;

33 (c) A letter from the applying school district affirming the
34 commitment of the board of directors of the district and the district
35 superintendent to maintain the applicant school as a personalized
36 school, as defined in section 2 of this act, for the entire five-year
37 duration of this research and development program, if the school is
38 selected to receive a grant to participate in the program; and

1 (d) A letter from the applicant school's principal articulating his
2 or her commitment to the personalized schools research and development
3 program.

4 (3) Each application on behalf of a proposed school to be created
5 for purposes of the personalized schools program must include:

6 (a) A description of how the proposed school will satisfy all the
7 conditions set forth in the definition of a personalized school, as
8 defined in section 2 of this act;

9 (b) A statement of the understanding of the applicant for the
10 proposed school regarding the value of personalization in education;

11 (c) A letter from the applying school district affirming the
12 commitment of the board of directors of the district and the district
13 superintendent to maintain the proposed school as a personalized
14 school, as defined in section 2 of this act, for the entire five-year
15 duration of this research and development program, if the application
16 for a proposed school is selected to receive a grant to participate in
17 the program; and

18 (d) A letter from the individual who would become the proposed
19 school's principal articulating his or her commitment to the
20 personalized schools research and development program.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** (1) The superintendent shall award start-up
22 grants for selected schools by January 15, 2002. Subject to available
23 funding, each personalized school shall receive a thirty-five thousand
24 dollar start-up grant.

25 (a) Up to fifteen thousand dollars of the start-up grant may be
26 used for facilities.

27 (b) The remainder of the start-up grant must be expended for needs
28 directly related to teaching and learning, with a focus on professional
29 development. This may not include purchase of material or curricula,
30 unless such materials or curricula are necessary for the conduct of
31 professional development activities.

32 (2) Subject to available funding, by July 1, 2002, the
33 superintendent shall award each personalized school a grant of twenty-
34 five thousand dollars for the first year of operation of the
35 personalized school. Subject to available funding, by July 1, 2003,
36 the superintendent shall award each personalized school a grant of
37 fifteen thousand dollars for the second year of operation of the
38 personalized school. Subject to available funding, by July 1, 2004,

1 the superintendent shall award each personalized school a grant of
2 eight thousand dollars for the third year of operation of the
3 personalized school.

4 (3) Schools selected to participate in the personalized schools
5 program shall begin planning activities in January 2002 and shall begin
6 their first year of operation within the personalized school program in
7 September 2002. Participating schools shall continue to operate as
8 personalized schools at least through the end of the 2006-07 school
9 year. All funds awarded for personalized schools under this chapter
10 must be under the control of the personalized school and may be spent
11 according to the school's discretion, subject to the requirements of
12 all other applicable laws.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** (1) The superintendent of public instruction
14 shall develop an assessment system for personalized schools. The
15 assessment system must include the Washington assessment of student
16 learning, information concerning student behavior, data relating to the
17 perceptions that students, parents, and educators have about
18 personalized schools, and other information that may be relevant to
19 determining the effectiveness of personalized schools. Up to thirty
20 thousand dollars of the appropriation provided for this program in the
21 2002 fiscal year may be used for development of the assessment system
22 created pursuant to this section.

23 (2) The superintendent shall designate a program staff member
24 within the agency to manage the assessment development activities and
25 to provide technical assistance to personalized schools. Subject to
26 available funding, the designated staff member shall also organize an
27 annual institute for representatives of each personalized school to
28 gain additional professional development and provide opportunities to
29 learn from the experiences of other personalized schools.

30 (3) The superintendent may require personalized schools to collect
31 and report information the superintendent deems necessary for an
32 adequate evaluation of the personalized schools pilot program. The
33 superintendent shall compile and analyze information on the results and
34 effectiveness of the personalized school pilot program and report its
35 findings to the legislature and to the public annually.

36 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** The superintendent may adopt rules necessary
37 to implement this chapter.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** If any provision of this act or its
2 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
3 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
4 persons or circumstances is not affected.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** Sections 1 through 8 of this act constitute
6 a new chapter in Title 28A RCW.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** Sections 1 through 8 of this act expire
8 December 31, 2007.

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