
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5695

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Education (originally sponsored by Senators Eide, Finkbeiner, McAuliffe, Franklin, Hewitt, Rasmussen, Johnson, Shin, Patterson, Oke, Winsley and Kohl-Welles; by request of Governor Locke and Superintendent of Public Instruction)

READ FIRST TIME 02/14/01.

1 AN ACT Relating to high-quality alternative routes to teacher
2 certification; 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 finds and declares:

6 (1) Teacher qualifications and effectiveness are the most important
7 influences on student learning in schools.

8 (2) Preparation of individuals to become well-qualified, effective
9 teachers must be high quality.

10 (3) Teachers who complete high-quality alternative route programs
11 with intensive field-based experience, adequate coursework, and strong
12 mentorship do as well or better than teachers who complete traditional
13 preparation programs.

14 (4) High-quality alternative route programs can provide more
15 flexibility and expedience for individuals to transition from their
16 current career to teaching.

17 (5) High-quality alternative route programs can help school
18 districts fill subject matter shortage areas and areas with shortages
19 due to geographic location.

1 (6) Regardless of route, all candidates for residency teacher
2 certification must meet the high standards required by the state.

3 The legislature recognizes widespread concerns about the potential
4 for teacher shortages and finds that classified instructional staff in
5 public schools represent a great untapped resource for recruiting the
6 teachers of the future.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** There is hereby created a statewide
8 partnership grant program to provide new high-quality alternative
9 routes to residency teacher certification. To the extent funds are
10 appropriated, funds provided under this partnership grant program shall
11 be used solely for school districts, or consortia of school districts,
12 to partner with state-approved higher education teacher preparation
13 programs to provide one or more of three alternative route programs in
14 section 5 of this act, aimed at recruiting candidates to teaching in
15 subject matter shortage areas and areas with shortages due to
16 geographic location. Districts, or consortia of districts, may also
17 include their educational service districts in their partnership grant
18 program. Partnership programs receiving grants may enroll candidates
19 as early as January 2002.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) Each district or consortia of school
21 districts applying for state funds through this program shall submit a
22 proposal to the Washington professional educator standards board
23 specifying:

24 (a) Which route or routes the partnership program intends to offer
25 and a detailed description of how routes will be structured and
26 operated by the partnership;

27 (b) The number of candidates that will be enrolled per route;

28 (c) Identification, indication of commitment, and description of
29 role of approved teacher preparation programs partnering with the
30 district or consortia of districts;

31 (d) An assurance of district provision of adequate training for
32 mentor teachers either through participation in a state mentor training
33 academy or district-provided training that meets state-established
34 mentor-training standards specific to the mentoring of alternative
35 route candidates;

36 (e) An assurance of the provision of significant time for mentor
37 teachers with the alternative route teacher candidates throughout the

1 internship. Partnerships must provide mentoring in classrooms until
2 such time that the candidates demonstrate competency necessary to
3 manage the classroom with supervision and guidance from a mentor;

4 (f) A description of the rigorous screening process for applicants
5 to alternative route programs, including entry requirements specific to
6 each route, as provided in section 5 of this act; and

7 (g) Development and use of a teacher development plan for each
8 candidate that specifies the alternative route coursework and training
9 required of each candidate by comparing the candidate's prior
10 experience and coursework with the state's new performance-based
11 standards for residency certification and adjusting requirements
12 accordingly.

13 (2) Districts may apply for funds through this program for stipends
14 for interns during their mentored internship and for stipends for
15 mentorship program. For both intern stipends and accompanying mentor
16 stipends, the per intern district request for funds may not exceed the
17 amount designated by the BA+0 cell on the statewide teacher salary
18 allocation schedule.

19 (3) Districts may enroll candidates seeking endorsements in
20 nonshortage areas, however these candidates are not eligible for state
21 funds under this program.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The professional educator standards
23 board, with support from the office of the superintendent of public
24 instruction, shall select school districts and consortia of school
25 districts to receive partnership grants from funds appropriated by the
26 legislature for this purpose. Factors to be considered in selecting
27 proposals include:

28 (a) The degree to which the district, or consortia of districts in
29 partnership, are currently experiencing teacher shortages;

30 (b) The degree to which the proposal addresses criteria specified
31 in section 3 of this act and is in keeping with specifications of
32 program routes in section 5 of this act;

33 (c) The cost-effectiveness of the proposed program; and

34 (d) Demonstrated district and in-kind contributions to the program.

35 (2) Selection of proposals shall also take into consideration the
36 need to ensure an adequate number of candidates for each type of route
37 in order to evaluate their success.

1 (3) Funds appropriated for the partnership grant program in this
2 chapter shall be administered by the office of the superintendent of
3 public instruction.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Partnership grants funded under this chapter
5 shall operate one to three specific route programs.

6 (1) Partnership grant programs seeking funds to operate route one
7 programs shall enroll currently employed classified instructional
8 employees with transferable associate degrees seeking residency teacher
9 certification with endorsements in special education or English as a
10 second language. It is anticipated that candidates enrolled in this
11 route will complete both their bachelor's degree and requirements for
12 residency certification in two years or less, including a mentored
13 internship to be completed in the final year. In addition, partnership
14 programs shall uphold entry requirements for candidates that include:

15 (a) District or building validation of qualifications, including
16 three years of successful student interaction and leadership as a
17 classified instructional employee;

18 (b) Successful passage of the statewide basic skills exam, when
19 available; and

20 (c) Meeting the age, good moral character, and personal fitness
21 requirements adopted by rule for teachers.

22 (2) Partnership grant programs seeking funds to operate route two
23 programs shall enroll currently employed classified staff with
24 bachelors' degrees seeking residency teacher certification in subject
25 matter shortage areas and areas with shortages due to geographic
26 location. Candidates enrolled in this route must complete a mentored
27 internship complemented by flexibly scheduled training and coursework
28 offered at a local site, such as a school or educational service
29 district, or on-line or via video-conference over the K-20 network, in
30 collaboration with the partnership program's higher education partner.
31 In addition, partnership grant programs shall uphold entry requirements
32 for candidates that include:

33 (a) District or building validation of qualifications, including
34 three years of successful student interaction and leadership as
35 classified staff;

36 (b) A bachelor of arts or bachelor of science degree. The
37 individual's grade point average will be considered as a factor;

1 (c) Successful completion of the content test, once the state
2 content test is available;

3 (d) Meeting the age, good moral character, and personal fitness
4 requirements adopted by rule for teachers; and

5 (e) Successful passage of the statewide basic skills exam, when
6 available.

7 (3) Partnership grant programs seeking funds to operate route three
8 programs shall enroll individuals with bachelors' degrees seeking
9 residency teacher certification in subject matter shortage areas, other
10 than special education or English as a second language, or shortages
11 due to geographic location. In addition, partnership programs shall
12 uphold entry requirements for candidates that include:

13 (a) Five years' experience in the work force;

14 (b) A bachelor of arts or bachelor of science degree. The
15 individual's grade point average will be considered as a factor;

16 (c) Successful completion of the content test, once the state
17 content test is available;

18 (d) External validation of qualifications, including demonstrated
19 successful experience with students or children, such as references
20 letters and letters of support from previous employers;

21 (e) Meeting the age, good moral character, and personal fitness
22 requirements adopted by rule for teachers; and

23 (f) Successful passage of statewide basic skills exams, when
24 available.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The alternative route conditional
26 scholarship program is created under the following guidelines:

27 (1) The program shall be administered by the higher education
28 coordinating board. In administering the program, the higher education
29 coordinating board has the following powers and duties:

30 (a) To adopt necessary rules and develop guidelines to administer
31 the program;

32 (b) To collect and manage repayments from participants who do not
33 meet their service obligations; and

34 (c) To accept grants and donations from public and private sources
35 for the program.

36 (2) The Washington professional educator standards board shall
37 select the classified instructional staff and other classified staff
38 accepted in alternative routes one or two through the partnership grant

1 program, as described in section 5 of this act, who are eligible to
2 receive conditional scholarships.

3 (3) In order to receive conditional scholarship awards, recipients
4 shall be accepted and maintain enrollment in alternative certification
5 routes one or two through the partnership grant program, as provided in
6 section 5 of this act. Recipients must continue to make satisfactory
7 progress towards completing the alternative route certification program
8 and receiving a residency teaching certificate.

9 (4) For the purpose of this chapter, a conditional scholarship is
10 a loan that is forgiven in exchange for service as a certificated
11 teacher employed in a Washington state K-12 public school. The state
12 shall forgive one year of loan obligation for every two years a
13 recipient teaches in a public school. Recipients that fail to continue
14 a course of study leading to residency teacher certification or cease
15 to teach in a public school in the state of Washington in their
16 endorsement area are required to repay the remaining loan principal
17 with interest.

18 (5) Recipients who fail to fulfill the required teaching obligation
19 are required to repay the remaining loan principal with interest and
20 any other applicable fees. The higher education coordinating board
21 shall adopt rules to define the terms for repayment, including
22 applicable interest rates, fees, and deferments.

23 (6) To the extent funds are appropriated, the annual amount of the
24 scholarship is the annual cost of tuition for the alternative route
25 certification program in which the recipient is enrolled, not to exceed
26 four thousand dollars. The board may adjust the annual award by the
27 rate of undergraduate resident tuition increases at the public four-
28 year research institutions of higher education.

29 (7) The higher education coordinating board may deposit all
30 appropriations, collections, and any other funds received for the
31 program in this chapter in the student loan account authorized in RCW
32 28B.102.060.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** This chapter expires June 30, 2005.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** The Washington state institute for public
35 policy shall submit to the education and fiscal committees of the
36 legislature, the governor, and the Washington professional educator
37 standards board an interim evaluation of partnership grant programs

1 funded under this act by December 1, 2002, and a final evaluation by
2 December 1, 2004.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** Sections 1 through 8 of this act constitute
4 a new chapter in Title 28A RCW.

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