
ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL 1986

State of Washington 61st Legislature 2009 Regular Session

By Representatives Hasegawa, Anderson, Wallace, White, and Sells

1 AN ACT Relating to peer mentoring; adding a new section to chapter
2 28B.12 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that peer mentoring
5 provides tangible and long-lasting opportunities for all students,
6 especially for low-income students, students of color, and first
7 generation students. These benefits include improved student
8 achievement and planning for success in postsecondary education. The
9 legislature further finds that mentoring increases the self-worth of
10 both mentees and mentors, while cultivating opportunities to improve
11 communication skills and develop and enhance leadership and other
12 critical transferable skills. Furthermore, the legislature finds that
13 mentorship provides a valuable opportunity to increase student interest
14 in career opportunities in the counseling and teaching professions, and
15 thus intends to support those efforts to the maximum extent possible.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.12 RCW
17 to read as follows:

18 (1) Western Washington University shall create and implement a

1 pilot mentoring program to inspire academic success and introduce
2 elementary students to educational opportunities. In addition to
3 establishing a pilot project on its own campus, the university, in
4 close collaboration with the state board for community and technical
5 colleges, shall jointly identify a community or technical college to
6 participate in the pilot program. The community or technical college
7 selected shall demonstrate active partnerships with interested common
8 schools, local businesses, and community organizations. Western
9 Washington University and the state board for community and technical
10 colleges shall identify the community or technical college by August 1,
11 2009.

12 (2) The state board for community and technical colleges shall work
13 in close collaboration with Western Washington University to identify
14 a community or technical college to participate in the pilot mentoring
15 program.

16 (3) Within overall appropriations for the state work study program,
17 the higher education coordinating board shall award grants to eligible
18 institutions participating in the mentoring pilot project. Grants
19 shall be awarded according to other procedures established by the board
20 for award of grants under this chapter.

21 (4) The goals of the pilot project are to:

22 (a) Encourage at-risk elementary school students to complete high
23 school and attend college, boosting the percentage of Washington
24 students who continue onto college;

25 (b) Provide positive role models for at-risk students and allow
26 college students the opportunity to perform community service;

27 (c) Strengthen relationships between the community, the university,
28 and area youth;

29 (d) Introduce at-risk students to college and provide them an
30 opportunity to experience their public colleges and universities;

31 (e) Increase the number of youth who view going to college as both
32 necessary and achievable; and

33 (f) Develop a model that is scalable statewide.

34 (5) Within existing resources, the pilot institutions shall:

35 (a) Recruit college students interested in serving as mentors to
36 elementary school students;

37 (b) Identify local elementary schools with demonstrated need for a
38 mentoring program;

- 1 (c) Develop a curriculum used for training college mentors. The
2 college may grant college-level credit to students who complete the
3 course;
- 4 (d) Develop any necessary contracts or interagency agreements to
5 facilitate program implementation;
- 6 (e) Provide ongoing support and oversight of the program;
- 7 (f) Solicit grants, awards, and gifts from individuals, businesses,
8 agencies, and foundations;
- 9 (g) Provide community outreach and publicity for the program;
- 10 (h) Develop appropriate outcome measures and evaluate the program
11 at regular intervals;
- 12 (i) Together with the state board for community and technical
13 colleges and in close collaboration with other community and
14 institutional partners, submit to the legislature:
- 15 (i) A preliminary progress report by December 1, 2010, that
16 includes a review of preliminary findings from the pilot project,
17 recommendations regarding the resources necessary to expand the model
18 statewide, and a process and timeline for statewide implementation; and
- 19 (ii) A final report, updating the findings from the preliminary
20 report, by December 1, 2011.

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