
SENATE BILL 5708

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Senators Walsh, Billig, and Kuderer

Read first time 02/03/17. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to equipment assistance grants to enhance student
2 nutrition in public schools; adding a new section to chapter 28A.235
3 RCW; and creating new sections.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** This act may be known and cited as the
6 apple a day act of 2017.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The legislature finds healthy eating in
8 childhood and adolescence is important for optimal growth and
9 development. The legislature further finds that states are facing a
10 nutrition crisis that is unprecedented. Childhood obesity and
11 diabetes are serious public health concerns. The legislature further
12 finds that healthy lifestyle habits, including healthy eating and
13 physical activity, can lower the risk of becoming obese and
14 developing diabetes and other related diseases. The legislature
15 further finds that public schools are in a unique position to promote
16 healthy eating, ensure appropriate food and nutrient intake among
17 students, provide students with opportunities to access an array of
18 healthy Washington grown foods throughout the school day, and enable
19 students to learn about and practice healthy eating behaviors. The
20 legislature further finds that many schools across the state lack the

1 necessary equipment and kitchen infrastructure required to support
2 the storage, preparation, and service of minimally processed and
3 whole foods. Therefore, it is the intent of the legislature to
4 establish a competitive equipment assistance grant program for public
5 schools to improve the quality of food service meals that meet
6 federal dietary guidelines, increase the consumption of whole foods,
7 increase awareness of local agriculture, and support the use of
8 modified scratch, from scratch, or other cooking methods that enhance
9 overall student nutrition.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.235
11 RCW to read as follows:

12 (1) A competitive equipment assistance grant program, to be known
13 as the apple a day program, is established to enhance overall student
14 nutrition in public schools.

15 (2) The superintendent of public instruction must establish a
16 competitive process to prioritize applications for state assistance
17 as follows:

18 (a) The superintendent of public instruction must conduct a
19 statewide solicitation of project applications from public school
20 districts for common schools and public schools participating in the
21 national school breakfast or the national school lunch program, as
22 determined by the superintendent of public instruction.

23 (b) The superintendent of public instruction must evaluate and
24 rank applications in consultation with an advisory committee of at
25 least three members of selected organizations concerned with child
26 nutrition, including one Washington school nutrition association
27 representative and one representative from east of the crest of the
28 Cascade mountains, using objective criteria.

29 (c) The superintendent of public instruction must require
30 applicants to demonstrate, at a minimum, the following:

31 (i) Use of the proposed equipment will enhance nutrition and
32 improve student access to healthier foods. Applicants must submit
33 current school menus and proposed menus using the requested
34 equipment; and

35 (ii) Healthy eating and physical activity are actively promoted
36 to students, parents, teachers, and the community.

37 (3) In evaluating and ranking applications, the superintendent of
38 public instruction shall give funding priority to:

1 (a) Public schools in which at least fifty percent of the
2 students are eligible for free or reduced-priced meals;

3 (b) Project applications in which equipment purchases will affect
4 menu changes throughout an entire grade group or school district;

5 (c) Project applications that provide a dollar-for-dollar match
6 from nonstate sources. Nonstate match may include cash and in-kind
7 contributions, and may be applied to the equipment purchase, labor
8 costs associated with equipment installation or renovation, disposal
9 of old equipment, minor capital improvements required to accommodate
10 the equipment, and staff training costs;

11 (d) Public schools that can demonstrate nutrition is integrated
12 into core curriculum areas such as math, science, language arts, and
13 physical education, and serving healthy Washington grown food is
14 incorporated into the school's wellness policy;

15 (e) Public schools that are engaged in farm to school efforts and
16 support Washington farmers by purchasing Washington grown food when
17 available.

18 (4) For purposes of this section, "equipment" means articles of
19 nonexpendable, tangible personal property with a useful life of at
20 least thirteen years and a per unit acquisition cost of one thousand
21 dollars and may include the purchase of new equipment, renovation of
22 equipment, or replacement of equipment. Minor capital improvements
23 required to accommodate the installation of equipment may also be
24 eligible for state assistance.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** If specific funding for the purposes of
26 this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not
27 provided by June 30, 2017, in the omnibus capital appropriations act,
28 this act is null and void.

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