
SENATE BILL 5733

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Senators Walsh, Billig, Frockt, Hunt, Keiser, and Lias

Read first time 02/06/17. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to improving student achievement; adding a new
2 section to chapter 43.215 RCW; adding a new section to chapter
3 28A.215 RCW; and creating new sections.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that:

6 (a) The Washington state institute for public policy concluded in
7 2014 that the state's early childhood education and assistance
8 program has a positive impact on third, fourth, and fifth grade test
9 scores, and the program generates about four dollars and seventy-five
10 cents of benefits for every dollar of cost; and

11 (b) Researchers at the University of Washington Tacoma's Center
12 for Strong Schools also found that two-thirds of the ninth grade
13 academic achievement gap between disadvantaged youngsters and their
14 more advantaged peers can be explained by what happens over the
15 summer during the elementary school years.

16 (2) The legislature intends to improve student achievement by:

17 (a) Increasing the number of summer early childhood education and
18 assistance programs at K-12 school building sites; and

19 (b) Providing summer step-up grants to increase the number of
20 summer learning programs that combine academics and other forms of
21 personal development.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.215
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
4 specific purpose, by March 1, 2018, the department must contract for
5 up to an additional six hundred slots in summer early childhood
6 education and assistance programs at K-12 school building sites. The
7 department must distribute the slots across the state.

8 (2) The department must give priority to summer early childhood
9 education and assistance programs operated in K-12 school buildings
10 that: (a) Plan to include four-year old children; (b) are in low-
11 income areas or areas underserved by early childhood education
12 programs; and (c) plan to fund summer meals using reimbursements from
13 the United States department of agriculture or other nonstate
14 sources.

15 (3) The department may adopt rules to implement this section.

16 (4) By October 1, 2019, and in compliance with RCW 43.01.036, the
17 department shall submit a report to the governor and the education
18 committees of the legislature that describes how many summer early
19 childhood education and assistance program slots were funded,
20 participant's school readiness outcomes compared to children that did
21 not receive the summer school programming, and lessons learned in
22 funding summer meals using reimbursements from the United States
23 department of agriculture or other nonstate sources; and that
24 includes recommendations for continuing, modifying, or expiring the
25 program.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.215
27 RCW to read as follows:

28 (1)(a) The summer step-up grant program is established to
29 increase the number of summer learning programs that combine
30 academics and other forms of learning or skill development.

31 (b) The office of the superintendent of public instruction must
32 develop and administer the competitive grant program.

33 (2)(a) By March 1, 2018, the office of the superintendent of
34 public instruction must award grants to summer learning programs that
35 are at least four weeks in length, for any of grades kindergarten
36 through twelve that agree to create or expand summer learning
37 programs.

38 (b) The office must identify criteria to evaluate applicants. The
39 application must require, among other things, that the applicant

1 describe: (i) The number and grade levels of the students that grant
2 money will serve; (ii) how the summer learning program will combine
3 academics with other programs; and (iii) how summer meals will be
4 funded, including whether meals will be reimbursed by the United
5 States department of agriculture or other nonstate sources.

6 (c) In awarding grants, the office must give priority to
7 applicants that plan to fund summer meals using reimbursements from
8 the United States department of agriculture or other nonstate
9 sources.

10 (d) Grant money must be used to support summer learning programs
11 that combine academics and developmentally appropriate interpersonal
12 and decision-making knowledge and skills.

13 (e) The grant period is two years. Throughout the grant period,
14 the grantees must cooperate with the office to evaluate program
15 effectiveness and to draft the report required in this section.

16 (3) The superintendent of public instruction may adopt rules to
17 implement this section.

18 (4) By October 1, 2019, and in compliance with RCW 43.01.036, the
19 superintendent of public instruction shall submit a report to the
20 governor and the education committees of the legislature that
21 describes how many students were supported during the summer learning
22 programs funded by the summer step-up grants described in this
23 section, lessons learned in combining academics and social
24 development and awareness in summer learning programs, lessons
25 learned in funding summer meals using reimbursements from the United
26 States department of agriculture or other nonstate sources, and
27 includes recommendations for continuing, modifying, or expiring the
28 summer step-up grant program.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act may be known and cited as the
30 summer step-up act.

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