
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6162

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education (originally sponsored by Senators Zeiger, Wellman, Palumbo, and Mullet)

READ FIRST TIME 01/29/18.

1 AN ACT Relating to defining dyslexia as a specific learning
2 disability and requiring early screening for dyslexia; amending RCW
3 28A.710.040; adding new sections to chapter 28A.155 RCW; and adding
4 new sections to chapter 28A.300 RCW.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.155
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 For the purposes of sections 2 through 5 of this act and RCW
9 28A.710.040 "dyslexia" means a specific learning disorder that is
10 neurological in origin and that is characterized by unexpected
11 difficulties with accurate or fluent word recognition and by poor
12 spelling and decoding abilities not consistent with the person's
13 intelligence, motivation, and sensory capabilities, which
14 difficulties typically result from a deficit in the phonological
15 component of language.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.155
17 RCW to read as follows:

18 (1) Each school district must screen every student in
19 kindergarten, first, and second grade for indications of dyslexia.
20 The screening tools used must exemplify best practices.

1 (2) School districts may, but are not required to, use the free
2 screening tools and resources identified by the superintendent of
3 public instruction in accordance with section 3 of this act.

4 (3) If a student shows indicators of below grade level literacy
5 development or indicators of dyslexia, the school must provide
6 interventions based on the school's system of support.

7 (4) Parents and families must be notified of the interventions
8 being offered to their student and whether the student continues to
9 show below grade level literacy development or indicators of
10 dyslexia. Upon parental consultation and consent, a student can be
11 referred for further evaluation.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300
13 RCW to read as follows:

14 (1) The superintendent of public instruction with input from the
15 dyslexia education advisory council that is reconvened in accordance
16 with section 4 of this act, must determine which screening tools meet
17 the developmental and academic criteria to indicate typical literacy
18 development and dyslexia.

19 (2) Starting at the beginning of the 2019-20 school year, the
20 superintendent of public instruction must host on the agency's web
21 site, literacy screeners to be used by school districts in grades
22 K-2.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300
24 RCW to read as follows:

25 (1) The superintendent of public instruction shall reconvene a
26 dyslexia advisory council to advise the superintendent on matters
27 relating to dyslexia. The council must include interested
28 stakeholders.

29 (2) The council must meet quarterly and serve without
30 compensation for a term of three years. When the council member's
31 term expires, the superintendent must appoint a replacement.

32 (3) The council must submit an annual report to the house of
33 representatives and senate education committees that:

34 (a) Includes the number of students screened and the number of
35 students identified with weakness in key areas that are associated
36 with characteristics of dyslexia or reading difficulties who were
37 provided with intervention services;

- 1 (b) Includes descriptions from school districts on types of
2 interventions used and rates of progress, when available; and
3 (c) Does not include identifying information on individual
4 students.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) The superintendent of public instruction may adopt rules to
8 implement sections 1 through 4 of this act.

9 (2) The rules may include, but are not limited to, the following:

10 (a) A timeline for school districts and charter schools to
11 implement the screenings required under section 2 of this act;

12 (b) The frequency for conducting the screenings;

13 (c) The knowledge and skills that must be assessed; and

14 (d) The members and scope of work for the dyslexia advisory
15 council.

16 **Sec. 6.** RCW 28A.710.040 and 2016 c 241 s 104 are each amended to
17 read as follows:

18 (1) A charter school must operate according to the terms of its
19 charter contract and the provisions of this chapter.

20 (2) A charter school must:

21 (a) Comply with local, state, and federal health, safety,
22 parents' rights, civil rights, and nondiscrimination laws applicable
23 to school districts and to the same extent as school districts,
24 including but not limited to chapter 28A.642 RCW (discrimination
25 prohibition) and chapter 28A.640 RCW (sexual equality);

26 (b) Provide a program of basic education, that meets the goals in
27 RCW 28A.150.210, including instruction in the essential academic
28 learning requirements, and participate in the statewide student
29 assessment system as developed under RCW 28A.655.070;

30 (c) Comply with the dyslexia screening requirements of section 2
31 of this act;

32 (d) Employ certificated instructional staff as required in RCW
33 28A.410.025. Charter schools, however, may hire noncertificated
34 instructional staff of unusual competence and in exceptional cases as
35 specified in RCW 28A.150.203(7);

36 ~~((d))~~ (e) Comply with the employee record check requirements in
37 RCW 28A.400.303;

1 ~~((e))~~ (f) Adhere to generally accepted accounting principles
2 and be subject to financial examinations and audits as determined by
3 the state auditor, including annual audits for legal and fiscal
4 compliance;

5 ~~((f))~~ (g) Comply with the annual performance report under RCW
6 28A.655.110;

7 ~~((g))~~ (h) Be subject to the performance improvement goals
8 adopted by the state board of education under RCW 28A.305.130;

9 ~~((h))~~ (i) Comply with the open public meetings act in chapter
10 42.30 RCW and public records requirements in chapter 42.56 RCW; and

11 ~~((i))~~ (j) Be subject to and comply with legislation enacted
12 after December 6, 2012, that governs the operation and management of
13 charter schools.

14 (3) Charter public schools must comply with all state statutes
15 and rules made applicable to the charter school in the school's
16 charter contract, and are subject to the specific state statutes and
17 rules identified in subsection (2) of this section. For the purpose
18 of allowing flexibility to innovate in areas such as scheduling,
19 personnel, funding, and educational programs to improve student
20 outcomes and academic achievement, charter schools are not subject
21 to, and are exempt from, all other state statutes and rules
22 applicable to school districts and school district boards of
23 directors. Except as provided otherwise by this chapter or a charter
24 contract, charter schools are exempt from all school district
25 policies.

26 (4) A charter school may not engage in any sectarian practices in
27 its educational program, admissions or employment policies, or
28 operations.

29 (5) Charter schools are subject to the supervision of the
30 superintendent of public instruction and the state board of
31 education, including accountability measures, to the same extent as
32 other public schools, except as otherwise provided in this chapter.

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