
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1658

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By House Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Paul, Steele, Bergquist, Harris, Santos, Callan, Appleton, Doglio, Pollet, and Young)

READ FIRST TIME 02/22/19.

1 AN ACT Relating to paraeducators; amending RCW 28A.413.060 and
2 28A.413.070; adding a new section to chapter 28A.413 RCW; and
3 creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.413
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 The paraeducator board must promote the use of paraeducators to
8 meet educator workforce needs by:

9 (1) Communicating to school districts and educational service
10 districts the requirements for requesting a limited teaching
11 certificate on behalf of a paraeducator;

12 (2) Encouraging and supporting paraeducators to take on the role
13 of teacher under a limited teaching certificate or by enrolling in an
14 alternative route teacher certification program under chapter 28A.660
15 RCW; and

16 (3) Supporting school districts and educational service districts
17 in using paraeducators in teacher roles.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** By December 10, 2019, and in compliance
19 with RCW 43.01.036, the paraeducator board must report to the
20 appropriate committees of the legislature with recommendations on

1 reducing barriers to school districts and educational service
2 districts using paraeducators on limited teaching certificates in
3 teacher roles or to supporting paraeducators to become fully
4 certificated teachers.

5 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.413.060 and 2018 c 153 s 3 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1) School districts must implement this section only in school
8 years for which state funding is appropriated specifically for the
9 purposes of this section and only for the number of days that are
10 funded by the appropriation.

11 (2) School districts must provide a four-day fundamental course
12 of study on the state standards of practice, as defined by the board,
13 to paraeducators who have not completed the course, either in the
14 district or in another district within the state. At least one day of
15 the fundamental course of study must be provided in person. School
16 districts must use best efforts to provide the fundamental course of
17 study before the paraeducator begins to work with students and their
18 families, and at a minimum by the deadlines provided in subsection
19 (3) of this section.

20 (3) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, school
21 districts must provide the fundamental course of study required in
22 subsection (2) of this section by the deadlines provided in (a) of
23 this subsection:

24 (a)(i) For paraeducators hired on or before September 1st, the
25 first two days of the fundamental course of study must be provided by
26 September 30th of that year and the second two days of the
27 fundamental course of study must be provided within six months of the
28 date of hire, regardless of the size of the district; and

29 (ii) For paraeducators hired after September 1st:

30 (A) For districts with ten thousand or more students, the first
31 two days of the fundamental course of study must be provided within
32 four months of the date of hire and the second two days of the
33 fundamental course of study must be provided within six months of the
34 date of hire or by September 1st of the following year, whichever is
35 sooner; and

36 (B) For districts with fewer than ten thousand students, no later
37 than September 1st of the following year.

38 (b)(i) For paraeducators hired for the 2018-19 school year, by
39 September 1, 2020; and

1 (ii) For paraeducators not hired for the 2018-19 school year, but
2 hired for the 2019-20 school year, by September 1, 2021.

3 (4) School districts may collaborate with other school districts
4 or educational service districts to meet the requirements of this
5 section.

6 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28A.413.070 and 2018 c 153 s 4 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

8 (1)(a) School districts must implement this section only in
9 school years for which state funding is appropriated specifically for
10 the purposes of this section and only for the number of days that are
11 funded by the appropriation.

12 (b) School districts are encouraged to provide at least one day
13 of the ten days of general courses, as defined by the board, on the
14 state paraeducator standards of practice as a professional learning
15 day, where paraeducators collaborate with certified staff and other
16 classified staff on applicable courses.

17 (2)(a) Paraeducators may become eligible for a general
18 paraeducator certificate by completing the four-day fundamental
19 course of study, as required under RCW 28A.413.060, and an additional
20 ten days of general courses, as defined by the board, on the state
21 paraeducator standards of practice, described in RCW 28A.413.050.

22 (b) Paraeducators are not required to meet the general
23 paraeducator certificate requirements under this subsection (2)
24 unless the courses necessary to meet the requirements are funded by
25 the state in accordance with subsection (1) of this section and RCW
26 28A.413.060(1).

27 (3) Beginning September 1, 2019, school districts must:

28 (a) Provide paraeducators with general courses on the state
29 paraeducator standards of practice; and

30 (b) Ensure all paraeducators employed by the district meet the
31 general certification requirements of this section within three years
32 of completing the four-day fundamental course of study.

33 (4) The general paraeducator certificate does not expire.

--- END ---