
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1543

State of Washington 52nd Legislature 1991 Regular Session

By House Committee on Human Services (originally sponsored by Representatives Fraser, Belcher, Winsley, Leonard, Beck, Hine, Ebersole, Brekke, Jones, Pruitt, Holland, Jacobsen and Heavey).

Read first time March 6, 1991.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishment of a family support worker program
2 in schools; adding a new chapter to Title 74 RCW; and creating a new
3 section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that children
6 and their families frequently are not linked with support services
7 available in the community until a problem reaches a crisis level.
8 Many educators, in an attempt to provide support to children, are
9 devoting valuable instruction time to assisting with their social
10 service needs or find that untended social service needs prevent a
11 child from being ready to learn.

12 (2) The legislature further finds that public schools can serve as
13 an effective site for the identification of children and families in
14 need of services and for helping children and families access

1 appropriate community support services before the situation reaches a
2 crisis level.

3 (3) The legislature further finds that schools should foster
4 increased involvement among the family, the community, and the school
5 by promoting activities that encourage parents and community members to
6 participate in school activities.

7 (4) The legislature further finds that several existing school-
8 based family support worker projects have successfully provided
9 students and families with access to community social services, thereby
10 reducing the need to spend instructional time providing social services
11 to students, increasing parental involvement in their children's
12 education, and improving the educational achievement of students.

13 (5) The purpose of this chapter is to help children and families in
14 need of assistance to gain access to social services, improve the
15 academic achievement of children, increase parental participation in
16 their children's education, encourage parental and community
17 involvement in schools, and reduce the amount of instruction time
18 devoted to the social service needs of children through the
19 establishment of family support worker projects in selected public
20 schools throughout the state.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Unless the context clearly requires
22 otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this
23 chapter.

24 (1) "Low-income student" means a student who meets the family-
25 income criteria for a free or reduced-price lunch according to the
26 provisions of 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1751, the national school lunch act, as
27 amended.

28 (2) "Designated school" means the school identified in the grant
29 award as the recipient of a family support worker project.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) There is established in the
2 department a family support worker program that may fund and coordinate
3 school-based family support worker projects. The projects shall assist
4 with the educational and social service needs of students and their
5 families.

6 (2) Applications for project funding under this chapter shall:

7 (a) Identify and describe the designated school and include
8 documentation of the number of low-income students attending the
9 designated school.

10 (b) Demonstrate the active participation of public and private
11 entities in the development of the family support project including,
12 but not limited to:

13 (i) The administrator of and instructors at the designated school;

14 (ii) Youth services organizations;

15 (iii) Health care providers;

16 (iv) Law enforcement representatives;

17 (v) Employment services providers; and

18 (vi) Community members.

19 (c) Describe the job responsibilities of the student and family
20 support worker, including but not limited to assisting with access to
21 community social services for children and families in need of
22 assistance, home visitation, casework management, parental involvement
23 activities, community involvement activities, and academic achievement
24 enhancement activities.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The secretary may award grants for
26 family support worker projects. The secretary shall award the grants
27 on a competitive basis based upon information provided in applications
28 for funding. To the greatest extent possible, grants shall be
29 geographically distributed throughout the state.

1 (2) Grants awarded under this chapter to the greatest extent
2 possible shall be equally distributed among elementary schools, middle
3 schools, and secondary schools. A minimum of eighty percent of the
4 grants shall be awarded to schools with a low-income student enrollment
5 of at least twenty-five percent.

6 (3) Family support worker projects funded under this chapter shall
7 include, at a minimum, one full-time equivalent family support worker
8 per designated school. Schools with an enrollment of less than two
9 hundred students may share a family support worker with another school
10 with an enrollment of less than two hundred students.

11 (4) The secretary shall give preference to applications that will
12 provide family support workers through contracts with private or public
13 social services entities in the community.

14 (5) Twenty-five percent of the funding for projects under this
15 chapter shall be community matching funds provided by private or public
16 entities, including the selected school districts. Contributions of
17 materials, equipment, or supplies may be considered as all or part of
18 the funding provided by the community.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) The department shall, to the extent
20 practical, assist with the development of additional family support
21 projects by rotating or loaning department employees to schools to
22 serve as family support workers.

23 (2) The department shall report to the legislature by December 1,
24 1992, on the progress of efforts to provide family support workers for
25 additional schools, as required by this section.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The department shall report to the
27 legislature on the effectiveness of the family support worker projects
28 by December 31 of each odd-numbered year. The report shall include an

1 evaluation of the progress of the family support worker program,
2 reflecting factors such as academic progress, community assistance
3 outcomes, and the enhancement of parental and community involvement in
4 project schools.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Sections 1 through 5 of this act shall
6 constitute a new chapter in Title 74 RCW.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** If any provision of this act or its
8 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
9 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
10 persons or circumstances is not affected.