
HOUSE BILL 2542

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By Representatives Dellwo, Jacobsen, Wood, Wineberry, Fuhrman, Schmidt, Wilson, Winsley, Paris, J. Kohl, O'Brien and Anderson

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1 AN ACT Relating to education; and amending RCW 28A.150.220,
2 28A.230.090, and 28A.600.060.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.150.220 and 1990 c 33 s 105 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) For the purposes of this section and RCW 28A.150.250 and
7 28A.150.260:

8 (a) The term "total program hour offering" shall mean those hours
9 when students are provided the opportunity to engage in educational
10 activity planned by and under the direction of school district staff,
11 as directed by the administration and board of directors of the
12 district, inclusive of intermissions for class changes, recess and
13 teacher/parent-guardian conferences which are planned and scheduled by

1 the district for the purpose of discussing students' educational needs
2 or progress, and exclusive of time actually spent for meals.

3 (b) "Instruction in work skills" shall include instruction in one
4 or more of the following areas: Industrial arts, home and family life
5 education, business and office education, distributive education,
6 agricultural education, health occupations education, vocational
7 education, trade and industrial education, technical education and
8 career education.

9 (2) Satisfaction of the basic education goal identified in RCW
10 28A.150.210 shall be considered to be implemented by the following
11 program requirements:

12 (a) Each school district shall make available to students in
13 kindergarten at least a total program offering of four hundred fifty
14 hours. The program shall include reading, arithmetic, language skills
15 and such other subjects and such activities as the school district
16 shall determine to be appropriate for the education of the school
17 district's students enrolled in such program;

18 (b) Each school district shall make available to students in grades
19 one through three, at least a total program hour offering of two
20 thousand seven hundred hours. A minimum of ninety-five percent of the
21 total program hour offerings shall be in the basic skills areas of
22 reading/language arts (which may include (~~foreign~~) languages other
23 than English, including American Indian languages), mathematics, social
24 studies, science, music, art, health and physical education. The
25 remaining five percent of the total program hour offerings may include
26 such subjects and activities as the school district shall determine to
27 be appropriate for the education of the school district's students in
28 such grades;

29 (c) Each school district shall make available to students in grades
30 four through six at least a total program hour offering of two thousand

1 nine hundred seventy hours. A minimum of ninety percent of the total
2 program hour offerings shall be in the basic skills areas of
3 reading/language arts (which may include (~~foreign~~) languages other
4 than English, including American Indian languages), mathematics, social
5 studies, science, music, art, health and physical education. The
6 remaining ten percent of the total program hour offerings may include
7 such subjects and activities as the school district shall determine to
8 be appropriate for the education of the school district's students in
9 such grades;

10 (d) Each school district shall make available to students in grades
11 seven through eight, at least a total program hour offering of one
12 thousand nine hundred eighty hours. A minimum of eighty-five percent
13 of the total program hour offerings shall be in the basic skills areas
14 of reading/language arts (which may include (~~foreign~~) languages other
15 than English, including American Indian languages), mathematics, social
16 studies, science, music, art, health and physical education. A minimum
17 of ten percent of the total program hour offerings shall be in the area
18 of work skills. The remaining five percent of the total program hour
19 offerings may include such subjects and activities as the school
20 district shall determine to be appropriate for the education of the
21 school district's students in such grades;

22 (e) Each school district shall make available to students in grades
23 nine through twelve at least a total program hour offering of four
24 thousand three hundred twenty hours. A minimum of sixty percent of the
25 total program hour offerings shall be in the basic skills areas of
26 language arts, (~~foreign~~) languages other than English, which may be
27 American Indian languages, mathematics, social studies, science, music,
28 art, health and physical education. A minimum of twenty percent of the
29 total program hour offerings shall be in the area of work skills. The
30 remaining twenty percent of the total program hour offerings may

1 include traffic safety or such subjects and activities as the school
2 district shall determine to be appropriate for the education of the
3 school district's students in such grades, with not less than one-half
4 thereof in basic skills and/or work skills: PROVIDED, That each school
5 district shall have the option of including grade nine within the
6 program hour offering requirements of grades seven and eight so long as
7 such requirements for grades seven through nine are increased to two
8 thousand nine hundred seventy hours and such requirements for grades
9 ten through twelve are decreased to three thousand two hundred forty
10 hours.

11 (3) In order to provide flexibility to the local school districts
12 in the setting of their curricula, and in order to maintain the intent
13 of this legislation, which is to stress the instruction of basic
14 skills and work skills, any local school district may establish minimum
15 course mix percentages that deviate by up to five percentage points
16 above or below those minimums required by subsection (2) of this
17 section, so long as the total program hour requirement is still met.

18 (4) Nothing contained in subsection (2) of this section shall be
19 construed to require individual students to attend school for any
20 particular number of hours per day or to take any particular courses.

21 (5) Each school district's kindergarten through twelfth grade basic
22 educational program shall be accessible to all students who are five
23 years of age, as provided by RCW 28A.225.160, and less than twenty-one
24 years of age and shall consist of a minimum of one hundred eighty
25 school days per school year in such grades as are conducted by a school
26 district, and one hundred eighty half-days of instruction, or
27 equivalent, in kindergarten: PROVIDED, That effective May 1, 1979, a
28 school district may schedule the last five school days of the one
29 hundred and eighty day school year for noninstructional purposes in the
30 case of students who are graduating from high school, including, but

1 not limited to, the observance of graduation and early release from
2 school upon the request of a student, and all such students may be
3 claimed as a full time equivalent student to the extent they could
4 otherwise have been so claimed for the purposes of RCW 28A.150.250 and
5 28A.150.260.

6 (6) The state board of education shall adopt rules to implement and
7 ensure compliance with the program requirements imposed by this
8 section, RCW 28A.150.250 and 28A.150.260, and such related supplemental
9 program approval requirements as the state board may establish:
10 PROVIDED, That each school district board of directors shall establish
11 the basis and means for determining and monitoring the district's
12 compliance with the basic skills and work skills percentage and course
13 requirements of this section. The certification of the board of
14 directors and the superintendent of a school district that the district
15 is in compliance with such basic skills and work skills requirements
16 may be accepted by the superintendent of public instruction and the
17 state board of education.

18 (7) Handicapped education programs, vocational-technical institute
19 programs, state institution and state residential school programs, all
20 of which programs are conducted for the common school age, kindergarten
21 through secondary school program students encompassed by this section,
22 shall be exempt from the basic skills and work skills percentage and
23 course requirements of this section in order that the unique needs,
24 abilities or limitations of such students may be met.

25 (8) Any school district may petition the state board of education
26 for a reduction in the total program hour offering requirements for one
27 or more of the grade level groupings specified in this section. The
28 state board of education shall grant all such petitions that are
29 accompanied by an assurance that the minimum total program hour
30 offering requirements in one or more other grade level groupings will

1 be exceeded concurrently by no less than the number of hours of the
2 reduction.

3 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.230.090 and 1990 1st ex.s. c 9 s 301 are each
4 amended to read as follows:

5 (1) The state board of education shall establish high school
6 graduation requirements or equivalencies for students who commence the
7 ninth grade subsequent to July 1, 1985, that meet or exceed the
8 following:

| 9 | SUBJECT | CREDITS |
|----|------------------------|---------|
| 10 | English | 3 |
| 11 | Mathematics | 2 |
| 12 | Social Studies | |
| 13 | United States history | |
| 14 | and government | 1 |
| 15 | Washington state | |
| 16 | history and government | 1/2 |
| 17 | Contemporary world | |
| 18 | history, geography, | |
| 19 | and problems | 1 |
| 20 | Science (1 credit | |
| 21 | must be in | |
| 22 | laboratory science) | 2 |
| 23 | Occupational Education | 1 |
| 24 | Physical Education | 2 |
| 25 | Electives | 5 1\2 |
| 26 | Total | 18 |

1 (2) For the purposes of this section one credit is equivalent to
2 one year of study.

3 (3) The Washington state history and government requirement may be
4 fulfilled by students in grades seven or eight or both. Students who
5 have completed the Washington state history and government requirement
6 in grades seven or eight or both shall be considered to have fulfilled
7 the Washington state history and government requirement.

8 Any course in Washington state history and government used to
9 fulfill high school graduation requirements shall include information
10 on the culture, history, and government of the American Indian peoples
11 who were the first human inhabitants of the state.

12 (4) A candidate for graduation must have in addition earned a
13 minimum of 18 credits including all required courses. These credits
14 shall consist of the state requirements listed above and such
15 additional requirements and electives as shall be established by each
16 district.

17 (5) In recognition of the statutory authority of the state board of
18 education to establish and enforce minimum high school graduation
19 requirements, the state board shall periodically reevaluate the
20 graduation requirements and shall report such findings to the
21 legislature in a timely manner as determined by the state board.

22 (6) Pursuant to any ~~((foreign language))~~ requirement for
23 instruction in languages other than English established by the state
24 board of education or a local school district, or both, for purposes of
25 high school graduation, students who receive instruction in sign
26 language or one or more American Indian languages shall be considered
27 to have satisfied the state or local school district ~~((foreign~~
28 ~~language))~~ graduation requirement for instruction in one or more
29 languages other than English.

1 ~~(7) If requested by the student and his or her family, a student~~
2 ~~who has completed high school courses while in seventh and eighth grade~~
3 ~~shall be given high school credit which shall be applied to fulfilling~~
4 ~~high school graduation requirements if:~~

5 ~~(a) The course was taken with high school students and the student~~
6 ~~has successfully passed by completing the same course requirements and~~
7 ~~examinations as the high school students enrolled in the class; or~~

8 ~~(b) The course would qualify for high school credit, because the~~
9 ~~course is similar or equivalent to a course offered at a high school in~~
10 ~~the district as determined by the school district board of directors.~~

11 ~~(8) Students who have taken and successfully completed high school~~
12 ~~courses under the circumstances in subsection (7) of this section shall~~
13 ~~not be required to take an additional competency examination or perform~~
14 ~~any other additional assignment to receive credit. Subsection (7) of~~
15 ~~this section shall also apply to students enrolled in high school on~~
16 ~~April 11, 1990, who took the courses while they were in seventh and~~
17 ~~eighth grade.~~

18 ~~**Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.600.060 and 1991 c 116 s 22 are each amended to~~
19 ~~read as follows:~~

20 ~~The recipients of the Washington state honors awards shall be~~
21 ~~selected based on student achievement in both verbal and quantitative~~
22 ~~areas, as measured by a test or tests of general achievement selected~~
23 ~~by the superintendent of public instruction, and shall include student~~
24 ~~performance in the academic core areas of English, mathematics,~~
25 ~~science, social studies, and ((foreign)) languages other than English,~~
26 ~~which may be American Indian languages. The performance level in such~~
27 ~~academic core subjects shall be determined by grade point averages,~~
28 ~~numbers of credits earned, and courses enrolled in during the beginning~~
29 ~~of the senior year.~~