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SENATE BILL 6509

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State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Senators Hochstatter, Benton, Zarelli, Rossi, Swecker, Deccio, Johnson, Oke, McCaslin, Stevens, Morton, Roach and Schow

Read first time 01/20/98. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to training in reading instruction; amending RCW  
2 28A.305.130; adding a new section to chapter 28A.405 RCW; adding a new  
3 section to chapter 28A.150 RCW; creating a new section; repealing RCW  
4 28A.300.310, 28A.300.320, 28A.300.330, and 28A.300.340; making  
5 appropriations; providing an expiration date; and declaring an  
6 emergency.

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

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** It is the intent of the legislature to  
9 establish a grant program to provide training in successful reading  
10 instruction methods to certificated employees who provide direct  
11 reading instructional services to students enrolled in grades one and  
12 two. This grant program shall provide additional training to  
13 certificated reading instructional staff so they will possess the  
14 knowledge and skills to effectively teach students to read.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.405  
16 RCW to read as follows:

17 (1) The superintendent of public instruction shall establish a  
18 grant program to provide training in reading instruction. Grants shall

1 be provided to school districts for reading instruction training for  
2 certificated employees who provide direct instructional services to  
3 students enrolled in grades one and two. Grants shall be awarded no  
4 later than June 1, 1998.

5 (2) The training in reading instruction shall be provided by  
6 private, nonsectarian contractors that provide training consisting of  
7 systematically explicit phonics instruction, phonemic awareness, sound-  
8 symbol relationship, decoding instruction, word-attack skills, spelling  
9 and vocabulary instruction, and explicit instruction of comprehension  
10 skills.

11 (3) Teachers shall receive a stipend from the grant.

12 (4) Grants received for the purpose of this section shall be spent  
13 only for training programs that take place during the summer of 1998.

14 (5) The criteria for awarding the grants shall be based on the  
15 order in which the grant requests are received by the superintendent of  
16 public instruction.

17 (6) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this  
18 section, unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

19 (a) "Phoneme awareness instruction" means teaching awareness of  
20 words, syllables, and phonemes along a developmental progression, and  
21 includes rhyming, recognition and production, blending and matching of  
22 phonemes, segmentation, and substitution.

23 (b) "Systematic explicit phonics instruction" means an organized,  
24 sequential program in which letter-sound correspondence for letters and  
25 letter clusters are directly taught and blended, practiced in words,  
26 word lists, and word families, and practiced in decodable text.  
27 Systematic explicit phonics instruction builds from basic elements to  
28 complex patterns and teachers provide prompt and explicit feedback.  
29 Systematic explicit phonics instruction does not mean embedded phonics  
30 instruction, which is ad hoc instruction in phonics based on a random  
31 selection of sound and word elements.

32 (c) "Decodable text" means reading material in which a high  
33 percentage of words are linked to phonics lessons.

34 (d) "Decoding instruction" means teaching how to read printed words  
35 fluently and automatically, from simple letter combinations to more  
36 complex, multisyllabic combinations through the use of connected or  
37 practice text.

38 (e) "Diagnosis of a pupil's ability to decode" means regularly  
39 assessing the pupil's mastery of word recognition, fluency and

1 automaticity, and word analysis in order to plan future instructional  
2 activities.

3 (f) "Explicit instruction" means systematic teaching of skills.

4 (g) "Spelling instruction" means teaching a logical scope and  
5 sequence of word knowledge, orthographic patterns, and frequently used  
6 words connected to the phonics sequence used in reading and writing  
7 instruction.

8 (h) "Word-attack skills instruction" means direct instruction of  
9 decoding skills and of structural elements, including prefixes,  
10 suffixes, and roots.

11 (i) "Vocabulary instruction" means teaching word meanings.

12 (j) "Instruction of comprehension skills" means systematic teaching  
13 of vocabulary development, text organization, and syntactic patterns,  
14 including, but not limited to, strategies for interpretation,  
15 summarization, prediction, clarification, and question generation.

16 (7) This section expires July 1, 1999.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.150  
18 RCW to read as follows:

19 Starting in the 1998-99 school year, school districts must  
20 administer a standardized, nationally norm-referenced test to measure  
21 second grade reading skills of second grade students. The state-wide  
22 second grade reading test, in addition to reporting in other formats,  
23 shall report student reading levels in terms of grade level and monthly  
24 increments. The purpose of the second grade reading test is to provide  
25 information to parents, teachers, and school administrators on the  
26 level of acquisition of reading skills of each student at the beginning  
27 of second grade.

28 Each school must have the test results available by the winter  
29 parent-teacher conference. Schools must notify parents about the  
30 second grade reading test during the conferences, inform the parents of  
31 their students' performance on the test, identify actions the school  
32 intends to take to improve the child's reading skills, and provide  
33 parents with strategies to help the parents improve their child's  
34 score.

35 Each school shall annually report to its community the number and  
36 the actual percentage of second grade students reading at or above  
37 second grade level and the distribution and range of all reading scores

1 by grade and monthly increments on the state-wide second grade reading  
2 assessment required under this section.

3 Each district shall report to the superintendent of public  
4 instruction annually beginning March 1999 the number and the actual  
5 percentage of second grade students reading at or above second grade  
6 level on the state-wide second grade reading assessment required under  
7 this section.

8 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28A.305.130 and 1997 c 13 s 5 are each amended to read  
9 as follows:

10 In addition to any other powers and duties as provided by law, the  
11 state board of education shall:

12 (1) Approve or disapprove the program of courses leading to  
13 teacher, school administrator, and school specialized personnel  
14 certification offered by all institutions of higher education within  
15 the state which may be accredited and whose graduates may become  
16 entitled to receive such certification. For students entering an  
17 approved teacher preparation program after June 30, 1996, an approved  
18 teacher preparation program for candidates who will be eligible for  
19 certification to teach kindergarten to second grade shall include  
20 coursework, either separate or a combination of courses, that provides  
21 training in systematically explicit phonics instruction, phonemic  
22 awareness, sound-symbol relationship, decoding instruction, word-attack  
23 skills, spelling and vocabulary instruction, and explicit instruction  
24 of comprehensive skills.

25 (2) Conduct every five years a review of the program approval  
26 standards, including the minimum standards for teachers,  
27 administrators, and educational staff associates, to reflect research  
28 findings and assure continued improvement of preparation programs for  
29 teachers, administrators, and educational staff associates.

30 (3) Investigate the character of the work required to be performed  
31 as a condition of entrance to and graduation from any institution of  
32 higher education in this state relative to such certification as  
33 provided for in subsection (1) above, and prepare a list of accredited  
34 institutions of higher education of this and other states whose  
35 graduates may be awarded such certificates.

36 (4)(a) The state board of education shall adopt rules to allow a  
37 teacher certification candidate to fulfill, in part, teacher  
38 preparation program requirements through work experience as a

1 classified teacher's aide in a public school or private school meeting  
2 the requirements of RCW 28A.195.010. The rules shall include, but are  
3 not limited to, limitations based upon the recency of the teacher  
4 preparation candidate's teacher aide work experience, and limitations  
5 based on the amount of work experience that may apply toward teacher  
6 preparation program requirements under this chapter.

7 (b) The state board of education shall require that at the time of  
8 the individual's enrollment in a teacher preparation program, the  
9 supervising teacher and the building principal shall jointly provide to  
10 the teacher preparation program of the higher education institution at  
11 which the teacher candidate is enrolled, a written assessment of the  
12 performance of the teacher candidate. The assessment shall contain  
13 such information as determined by the state board of education and  
14 shall include: Evidence that at least fifty percent of the candidate's  
15 work as a classified teacher's aide was involved in instructional  
16 activities with children under the supervision of a certificated  
17 teacher and that the candidate worked a minimum of six hundred thirty  
18 hours for one school year; the type of work performed by the candidate;  
19 and a recommendation of whether the candidate's work experience as a  
20 classified teacher's aide should be substituted for teacher preparation  
21 program requirements. In compliance with such rules as may be  
22 established by the state board of education under this section, the  
23 teacher preparation programs of the higher education institution where  
24 the candidate is enrolled shall make the final determination as to what  
25 teacher preparation program requirements may be fulfilled by teacher  
26 aide work experience.

27 (5) Supervise the issuance of such certificates as provided for in  
28 subsection (1) above and specify the types and kinds of certificates  
29 necessary for the several departments of the common schools by rule or  
30 regulation in accordance with RCW 28A.410.010.

31 (6) Accredite, subject to such accreditation standards and  
32 procedures as may be established by the state board of education, all  
33 schools that apply for accreditation, and approve, subject to the  
34 provisions of RCW 28A.195.010, private schools carrying out a program  
35 for any or all of the grades kindergarten through twelve: PROVIDED,  
36 That no private school may be approved that operates a kindergarten  
37 program only: PROVIDED FURTHER, That no public or private schools  
38 shall be placed upon the list of accredited schools so long as secret  
39 societies are knowingly allowed to exist among its students by school

1 officials: PROVIDED FURTHER, That the state board may elect to require  
2 all or certain classifications of the public schools to conduct and  
3 participate in such preaccreditation examination and evaluation  
4 processes as may now or hereafter be established by the board.

5 (7) Make rules and regulations governing the establishment in any  
6 existing nonhigh school district of any secondary program or any new  
7 grades in grades nine through twelve. Before any such program or any  
8 new grades are established the district must obtain prior approval of  
9 the state board.

10 (8) Prepare such outline of study for the common schools as the  
11 board shall deem necessary, and prescribe such rules for the general  
12 government of the common schools, as shall seek to secure regularity of  
13 attendance, prevent truancy, secure efficiency, and promote the true  
14 interest of the common schools.

15 (9) Continuously reevaluate courses and adopt and enforce  
16 regulations within the common schools so as to meet the educational  
17 needs of students and articulate with the institutions of higher  
18 education and unify the work of the public school system.

19 (10) Carry out board powers and duties relating to the organization  
20 and reorganization of school districts under RCW 28A.315.010 through  
21 28A.315.680 and 28A.315.900.

22 (11) By rule or regulation promulgated upon the advice of the chief  
23 of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire  
24 protection, provide for instruction of pupils in the public and private  
25 schools carrying out a K through 12 program, or any part thereof, so  
26 that in case of sudden emergency they shall be able to leave their  
27 particular school building in the shortest possible time or take such  
28 other steps as the particular emergency demands, and without confusion  
29 or panic; such rules and regulations shall be published and distributed  
30 to certificated personnel throughout the state whose duties shall  
31 include a familiarization therewith as well as the means of  
32 implementation thereof at their particular school.

33 (12) Hear and decide appeals as otherwise provided by law.

34 The state board of education is given the authority to promulgate  
35 information and rules dealing with the prevention of child abuse for  
36 purposes of curriculum use in the common schools.

37 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The following acts or parts of acts are each  
38 repealed:

- 1 (1) RCW 28A.300.310 and 1997 c 262 s 1;  
2 (2) RCW 28A.300.320 and 1997 c 262 s 3;  
3 (3) RCW 28A.300.330 and 1997 c 262 s 4; and  
4 (4) RCW 28A.300.340 and 1997 c 262 s 7.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** (1) The sum of eleven million dollars, or as  
6 much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year  
7 ending June 30, 1999, from the general fund to the superintendent of  
8 public instruction for the purposes of section 2 of this act.

9 (2) The sum of two hundred thousand dollars, or as much thereof as  
10 may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30,  
11 1999, from the general fund to the superintendent of public instruction  
12 for the purposes of section 3 of this act.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
14 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
15 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect  
16 immediately.

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