
HOUSE BILL 2698

State of Washington 65th Legislature 2018 Regular Session

By Representatives Bergquist, Muri, and Ortiz-Self

Read first time 01/12/18. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to paraeducators; amending RCW 28A.413.040,
2 28A.660.042, and 28A.413.060; and making appropriations.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.413.040 and 2017 c 237 s 5 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 ~~((Effective September 1, 2018, the minimum employment~~
7 ~~requirements for paraeducators are as provided in this section.)) (1)~~
8 All paraeducators currently employed and hired before September 1,
9 2018, have until September 1, 2019, to meet the minimum employment
10 standards in this section. Paraeducators hired on or after September
11 1, 2018, must meet the minimum employment standards in this section
12 when they are hired. The paraeducator must:

13 ~~((1))~~ (a) Be at least eighteen years of age and hold a high
14 school diploma or its equivalent; and

15 ~~((2)(a))~~ (b)(i) Have received a passing grade on the education
16 testing service paraeducator assessment; or

17 ~~((b))~~ (ii) Hold an associate of arts degree; or

18 ~~((c))~~ (iii) Have earned seventy-two quarter credits or forty-
19 eight semester credits at an institution of higher education; or

20 ~~((d))~~ (iv) Have completed a registered apprenticeship program.

1 (2) Non-Title I school districts should provide the professional
2 educator standards paraeducator board by September 1, 2018, a report
3 of how many current paraeducators have met minimum employment
4 requirements and how many have not met the minimum employment
5 requirements.

6 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.660.042 and 2017 c 237 s 19 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

8 ~~((1))~~ The pipeline for paraeducators conditional scholarship
9 program is created. Participation is limited to paraeducators without
10 a college degree who have ~~((at least three years of classroom))~~
11 experience~~((. It is anticipated that candidates enrolled in this~~
12 ~~program will complete their associate of arts degree at a community~~
13 ~~and technical college in two years or less and become eligible for an~~
14 ~~endorsement in a subject matter shortage area, as defined by the~~
15 ~~professional educator standards board,))~~ as defined by the
16 professional educator standards board via route one in the
17 alternative routes to teacher certification program provided in this
18 chapter.

19 ~~((2) Entry requirements for candidates include district or~~
20 ~~building validation of qualifications, including three years of~~
21 ~~successful student interaction and leadership as a classified~~
22 ~~instructional employee.))~~

23 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.413.060 and 2017 c 237 s 7 are each amended to
24 read as follows:

25 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
26 specific purpose, beginning September 1, 2019, school districts must
27 provide a four-day fundamental course of study on the state standards
28 of practice, as defined by the board, to paraeducators who have not
29 completed the course, either in the district or in another district
30 within the state. School districts will have from September 1, 2019,
31 to September 1, 2020, to provide the fundamental course of study to
32 all paraeducators hired before September 1, 2019. For any
33 paraeducator hired on or after September 1, 2019, school districts
34 must use best efforts to provide the fundamental course of study
35 before the paraeducator begins to work with students and their
36 families, and at a minimum by the deadlines provided in subsection
37 (2) of this section.

1 (2) School districts must provide the fundamental course of study
2 required in subsection (1) of this section as follows:

3 (a) For paraeducators hired on or before September 1st, by
4 September 30th of that year, regardless of the size of the district;
5 and

6 (b) For paraeducators hired after September 1st:

7 (i) For districts with ten thousand or more students, within four
8 months of the date of hire; and

9 (ii) For districts with fewer than ten thousand students, no
10 later than September 1st of the following year.

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

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The sum of five hundred thousand
15 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for
16 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, from the general fund to the
17 state of Washington professional educator standards board to provide
18 overall oversight and procure or develop professional development for
19 specialty certificates and align courses with general certificate
20 professional development, including any necessary changes or edits to
21 general certificate online modules.

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