

SSB 5354 - S AMD 1102

By Senator Rivers

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 **"Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.185.030 and 2009 c 380 s 4 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

5 (1) Local school districts may establish and operate, either
6 separately or jointly, programs for highly capable students. Such
7 authority shall include the right to employ and pay special
8 instructors and to operate such programs jointly with a public
9 institution of higher education. (~~Local school~~)

10 (2) School districts (~~which~~) that establish and operate
11 programs for highly capable students shall adopt identification
12 procedures and provide educational opportunities as follows:

13 (~~(1)~~) (a) In accordance with rules adopted by the
14 superintendent of public instruction, school districts shall
15 implement procedures for (~~nomination~~) referral, screening,
16 assessment (~~and~~), selection, and placement of their most highly
17 capable students. (~~Nominations shall~~)

18 (b) A referral process must be available for all grade levels
19 that are not universally screened. Referrals must be based upon data
20 from teachers, other staff, parents, students, (~~and~~) or members of
21 the community. School districts may also refer students based on
22 available district data, such as standardized test scores or language
23 acquisition rates.

24 (c) Each school district must conduct universal screenings for
25 each student at least twice, once in or before second grade and once
26 in or before sixth grade, to find students who show potential to be
27 eligible for the highly capable program. The intent of universal
28 screening is to seek potential, rather than eliminate students from
29 consideration.

30 (i) School districts must provide the universal screenings within
31 the school day and at the school the student attends. An opt-out

1 process must be available to parents or guardians who do not want
2 their child to participate in universal screenings.

3 (ii) Newly enrolled students who miss their school district's
4 initial grade level of screening, and who do not have comparable
5 screening data on file from a previous district, must be universally
6 screened during their first semester of enrollment.

7 (iii) Any student who is screened, and is later determined to be
8 eligible for special education services, must be rescreened within
9 sixty days of qualifying for special education services to ensure
10 that the student receives proper accommodation during the screening
11 process.

12 (d) Assessment shall be based upon a review of each student's
13 capability as shown by multiple criteria intended to reveal, from a
14 wide variety of sources and data, each student's unique needs and
15 capabilities.

16 (e) Selection and placements shall be made by a broadly based
17 committee of professionals, after consideration of the results of the
18 multiple criteria assessment.

19 ~~((2))~~ (3) When a student, who is a child of a military family
20 in transition, has been assessed or enrolled as highly capable by a
21 sending school, the receiving school shall initially honor placement
22 of the student into a like program.

23 (a) The receiving school shall determine whether the district's
24 program is a like program when compared to the sending school's
25 program; and

26 (b) The receiving school may conduct subsequent assessments to
27 determine appropriate placement and continued enrollment in the
28 program.

29 ~~((3))~~ (4) Students selected pursuant to procedures outlined in
30 this section shall be provided, to the extent feasible, an
31 educational opportunity which takes into account each student's
32 unique needs and capabilities and the limits of the resources and
33 program options available to the district, including those options
34 which can be developed or provided by using funds allocated by the
35 superintendent of public instruction for that purpose.

36 ~~((4))~~ (5) The definitions in Article II of RCW 28A.705.010
37 apply to subsection ~~((2))~~ (3) of this section.

38 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 28A.185
39 RCW to read as follows:

1 By July 31, 2021, the office of the superintendent of public
2 instruction must develop and distribute to school districts policy
3 guidance regarding implementation of section 1 of this act and
4 provide technical assistance as needed.

5 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28B.10.032 and 1987 c 525 s 233 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1) The state's public and private institutions of higher
8 education offering teacher preparation programs and school districts
9 are encouraged to explore ways to facilitate faculty exchanges, and
10 other cooperative arrangements, to generate increased awareness and
11 understanding by higher education faculty of the common school
12 teaching experience and increased awareness and understanding by
13 common school faculty of the teacher preparation programs.

14 (2) Teacher preparation programs must include information on
15 recognizing students who may qualify for programs for highly capable
16 students, why highly capable students need special services, and the
17 best practices for providing these services.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Section 1 of this act takes effect August
19 1, 2021."

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20 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "students;" strike the
21 remainder of the title and insert "amending RCW 28A.185.030 and
22 28B.10.032; adding a new section to chapter 28A.185 RCW; and
23 providing an effective date."

EFFECT: (1) Removes all provisions except the provisions that
require universal highly capable screenings of students and the
provisions that require teacher preparation programs to include
highly capable information.

(2) Requires that school districts conduct universal screenings
of each student at least twice, once in or before second grade and
once in or before sixth grade, effective August 1, 2021.

(3) Requires that universal screenings take place within the
school day and at the school the student attends.

(4) Requires school districts to provide an opt-out process for
parents or guardians who do not want their child to participate in
universal screenings.

(5) Requires school districts to screen new students without comparable screening data during their first semester of enrollment.

(6) Requires school districts to rescreen students who have become eligible for special education services to ensure proper accommodations are provided during the screening.

(7) Requires that a referral process be available for all grade levels that are not universally screened and permits school districts to refer students based on school district data.

(8) Removes language that required assessments to be conducted within the school day and at the school the student attends.

(9) Removes language requiring selection and placements to be made by a multidisciplinary selection committee with training on the needs of highly capable students.

(10) Removes language stating that access to highly capable instruction is not an individual entitlement.

(11) Removes language making universal screenings subject to appropriated funds.

(12) Provides that the office of the superintendent of public instruction must develop and distribute policy guidelines to school districts regarding universal screening and referral requirements by July 31, 2021.

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