

SSB 5850 - S AMD 654
By Senator Wellman

ADOPTED 02/13/2024

1 On page 1, line 9, after "must" insert "work in collaboration
2 with the office of the superintendent of public instruction to"

3 On page 2, line 2, after "behavioral" insert "and physical"

4 Beginning on page 2, after line 6, strike all of sections 2 and 3
5 and insert the following:

6 "**Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.175.025 and 2007 c 408 s 2 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

8 (1) Subject to the availability of funds appropriated for this
9 specific purpose, the office of the superintendent of public
10 instruction shall create a grant program and award grants to local
11 partnerships of schools, families, and communities (~~to begin the~~
12 ~~phase in of~~) for a statewide comprehensive dropout prevention,
13 intervention, and retrieval system including supports for students
14 who are chronically absent. This program shall be known as the
15 building bridges program.

16 (~~(1)~~) (2) For purposes of RCW 28A.175.025 through 28A.175.075,
17 a "building bridges program" means a local partnership of schools,
18 families, and communities that either provides the supports under
19 subsection (3) of this section or provides all of the following
20 programs or activities under this subsection, or both:

21 (a) A system that identifies individual students at risk of
22 dropping out from middle through high school based on local
23 predictive data, including state assessment data starting in the
24 fourth grade, and provides timely interventions for such students and
25 for dropouts (~~(, including a plan for educational success as already~~
26 ~~required by the student learning plan as defined under RCW~~
27 ~~28A.655.061)~~). Students identified shall include foster care youth,
28 youth involved in the juvenile justice system, and students receiving
29 special education services under chapter 28A.155 RCW;

30 (b) Coaches or mentors for students as necessary;

1 (c) Staff responsible for coordination of community partners that
2 provide a seamless continuum of academic and nonacademic support in
3 schools and communities;

4 (d) Retrieval or reentry activities; and

5 (e) Alternative educational programming, including, but not
6 limited to, career and technical education exploratory and
7 preparatory programs and online learning opportunities.

8 ~~((2) One of the grants awarded under this section shall be for a
9 two-year demonstration project focusing on providing fifth through
10 twelfth grade students with a program that utilizes technology and is
11 integrated with state standards, basic academics, cross-cultural
12 exposures, and age-appropriate preemployment training. The project
13 shall:~~

14 ~~(a) Establish programs in two western Washington and one eastern
15 Washington urban areas;~~

16 ~~(b) Identify at-risk students in each of the distinct communities
17 and populations and implement strategies to close the achievement
18 gap;~~

19 ~~(c) Collect and report data on participant characteristics and
20 outcomes of the project, including the characteristics and outcomes
21 specified under RCW 28A.175.035(1)(e); and~~

22 ~~(d) Submit a report to the legislature by December 1, 2009))~~

23 (3) When community-based organizations, tribes, and community and
24 technical colleges are awarded grants to support students who are
25 chronically absent under this section, grant funds may also be used
26 for the following strategies and supports:

27 (a) Proactive engagement with all families about the impact of
28 attendance on student outcomes;

29 (b) Clear, supportive, and solution-oriented communication with
30 families and caregivers of students who are chronically absent;

31 (c) Visits to families of students who are chronically absent;

32 (d) Academic, systemic, and economic supports for the families of
33 students who are chronically absent, including removing barriers to
34 students attending school as well as tutoring and mentoring students
35 who are reengaging in the classroom;

36 (e) Connecting students to behavioral and physical health
37 supports; and

38 (f) Incentives and celebrations of students' improved attendance
39 and engagement in the classroom.

1 (4) For the purposes of this section, "students who are
2 chronically absent" has the same meaning as in section 1 of this act.

3 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.175.035 and 2011 c 288 s 9 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

5 (1) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall:

6 (a) Identify criteria for grants and evaluate proposals for
7 funding in consultation with the workforce training and education
8 coordinating board;

9 (b) Develop and monitor requirements for grant recipients to:

10 (i) Identify students who (~~both fail the Washington assessment~~
11 ~~of student learning~~) score below basic on the statewide student
12 assessment as defined in RCW 28A.655.230 and drop out of school;

13 (ii) Identify their own strengths and gaps in services provided
14 to youth;

15 (iii) Set their own local goals for program outcomes;

16 (iv) Use research-based and emerging best practices that lead to
17 positive outcomes in implementing the building bridges program; and

18 (v) Coordinate an outreach campaign to bring public and private
19 organizations together and to provide information about the building
20 bridges program to the local community;

21 (c) In setting the requirements under (b) of this subsection,
22 encourage creativity and provide for flexibility in implementing the
23 local building bridges program;

24 (d) Identify and disseminate successful practices; and

25 (e) Develop requirements for grant recipients to collect and
26 report data, including, but not limited to:

27 (i) The number of and demographics of students served including,
28 but not limited to, information regarding a student's race and
29 ethnicity, a student's household income, a student's housing status,
30 whether a student is a foster youth or youth involved in the juvenile
31 justice system, whether a student is disabled, and the primary
32 language spoken at a student's home;

33 (ii) (~~Washington assessment of student learning~~) Statewide
34 student assessment scores;

35 (iii) Dropout rates;

36 (iv) On-time graduation rates;

37 (v) Extended graduation rates;

38 (vi) Credentials obtained;

39 (vii) Absenteeism rates;

1 (viii) Truancy rates; and
2 (ix) Credit retrieval (~~(f)~~
3 ~~(f) Contract with a third party to evaluate the infrastructure~~
4 ~~and implementation of the partnership including the leveraging of~~
5 ~~outside resources that relate to the goal of the partnership. The~~
6 ~~third-party contractor shall also evaluate the performance and~~
7 ~~effectiveness of the partnerships relative to the type of entity, as~~
8 ~~identified in RCW 28A.175.045, serving as the lead agency for the~~
9 ~~partnership; and~~

10 ~~(g) Report to the legislature by December 1, 2008).~~

11 (2) The office of the superintendent of public instruction may
12 require the recipient of grant funding under RCW 28A.175.025 to
13 report the impacts of the recipient's efforts in alignment with the
14 measures of the Washington school improvement framework.

15 (3) In performing its duties under this section, the office of
16 the superintendent of public instruction is encouraged to consult
17 with the ~~((work group identified))~~ graduation: a team effort
18 partnership advisory committee established in RCW 28A.175.075.

19 ~~((3))~~ (4) In selecting recipients for grant funds appropriated
20 under RCW 28A.175.135, the office of the superintendent of public
21 instruction shall use a streamlined and expedited application and
22 review process for those programs that have already proven to be
23 successful in dropout prevention.

24 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28A.175.105 and 2021 c 164 s 7 are each amended to
25 read as follows:

26 The definitions in this section apply throughout RCW 28A.175.100
27 through 28A.175.110 unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

28 (1) "Dropout reengagement program" means an educational program
29 that offers at least the following instruction and services:

30 (a) Academic instruction, including but not limited to
31 preparation to earn a high school equivalency certificate as provided
32 in RCW 28B.50.536 in accordance with rules adopted under RCW
33 28A.305.190, academic skills instruction, and college and work
34 readiness preparation, that generates credits that can be applied to
35 a high school diploma from the student's school district or from a
36 community or technical college under RCW 28B.50.535 and has the goal
37 of enabling the student to obtain the academic and work readiness
38 skills necessary for employment or postsecondary study. A dropout
39 reengagement program is not required to offer instruction in only

1 those subject areas where a student is deficient in accumulated
2 credits. Academic instruction must be provided by teachers certified
3 by the Washington professional educator standards board or by
4 instructors employed by a community or technical college whose
5 required credentials are established by the college;

6 (b) Case management, academic and career counseling, and
7 assistance with accessing services and resources that support at-risk
8 youth and reduce barriers to educational success, such as:

9 (i) Academic related supports, such as covering test fees,
10 calculators, and laboratory and other school supplies;

11 (ii) Nonacademic supports, such as adequate and appropriate
12 clothing; adequate and reliable access to food and nutrition; and
13 transportation, including bus passes, gas vouchers, and subsidized
14 parking; and

15 (iii) Connecting students to behavioral and physical health
16 supports; and

17 (c) If the program provider is a community or technical college,
18 the opportunity for qualified students to enroll in college courses
19 that lead to a postsecondary degree or certificate. The college may
20 not charge an eligible student tuition for such enrollment.

21 (2) "Eligible student" means a student who:

22 (a) Is at least sixteen but less than twenty-one years of age at
23 the beginning of the school year;

24 (b) Is not accumulating sufficient credits toward a high school
25 diploma to reasonably complete a high school diploma from a public
26 school before the age of twenty-one or is recommended for the program
27 by case managers from the department of social and health services or
28 the juvenile justice system; and

29 (c) Is enrolled or enrolls in the school district in which the
30 student resides, or is enrolled or enrolls in an institutional
31 education program as defined in RCW 28A.190.005 or a nonresident
32 school district under RCW 28A.225.220 through 28A.225.230.

33 (3) "Full-time equivalent eligible student" means an eligible
34 student whose enrollment and attendance meet criteria adopted by the
35 office of the superintendent of public instruction specifically for
36 dropout reengagement programs. The criteria shall be:

37 (a) Based on the community or technical college credits generated
38 by the student if the program provider is a community or technical
39 college; and

1 (b) Based on a minimum amount of planned programming or
2 instruction and minimum attendance by the student rather than hours
3 of seat time if the program provider is a community-based
4 organization."

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5 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "school;" insert "amending
6 RCW 28A.175.025, 28A.175.035, and 28A.175.105; and"

7 On page 1, beginning on line 3 of the title, after "RCW" strike
8 all material through "dates" on line 4

EFFECT: (1) Adds that educational service districts must work in collaboration with the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) when developing and maintaining the capacity to offer training and coaching to address excessive absenteeism and truancy.

(2) Adds "physical health" in addition to "behavioral health" when describing the different supports for students.

(3) Removes the section creating a temporary grant program to support students who are chronically absent and includes the grant fund uses within the Building Bridges program when the grant funds are awarded to community-based organizations, tribes, and community and technical colleges.

(4) Adds that OSPI may require grant recipients to report the impacts of the recipient's efforts in alignment with the measures of the Washington School Improvement Framework.

(5) Removes the temporary section directing OSPI to allocate additional funding to help meet the varied needs of students who are enrolled in a statewide dropout reengagement program. Adds most of the examples of the uses of this funding from this temporary section to allowable uses within the dropout reengagement program known as Open Doors Youth Reengagement.

(6) Removes language that no longer applies and updates references to align with existing law.

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