
HOUSE BILL 2381

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

By Representatives McEntire, Shavers, and Chapman; by request of Superintendent of Public Instruction

Read first time 01/16/24. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to increasing eligibility for economy and
2 efficiency flexible school calendar waivers; and amending RCW
3 28A.150.222.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.150.222 and 2019 c 274 s 1 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1) In addition to waivers authorized under RCW 28A.300.750, the
8 superintendent of public instruction, in accordance with the criteria
9 in subsection (2) of this section and criteria adopted by the state
10 board of education under subsection (3) of this section, may grant
11 waivers of the requirement for a (~~one hundred eighty-day~~) 180-day
12 school year under RCW 28A.150.220 to school districts that propose to
13 operate one or more schools on a flexible calendar for purposes of
14 economy and efficiency as provided in this section. The requirement
15 under RCW 28A.150.220 that school districts offer minimum
16 instructional hours may not be waived.

17 (2) A school district seeking a waiver under this section must
18 submit an application to the superintendent of public instruction
19 that includes:

1 (a) A proposed calendar for the school day and school year that
2 demonstrates how the instructional hour requirement will be
3 maintained;

4 (b) An explanation and estimate of the economies and efficiencies
5 to be gained from compressing the instructional hours into fewer than
6 (~~one hundred eighty~~) 180 days;

7 (c) An explanation of how monetary savings from the proposal will
8 be redirected to support student learning;

9 (d) A summary of comments received at one or more public hearings
10 on the proposal and how concerns will be addressed;

11 (e) An explanation of the impact on students who rely upon free
12 and reduced-price school child nutrition services and the impact on
13 the ability of the child nutrition program to operate an economically
14 independent program;

15 (f) An explanation of the impact on employees in education
16 support positions and the ability to recruit and retain employees in
17 education support positions;

18 (g) An explanation of the impact on students whose parents work
19 during the missed school day; and

20 (h) Other information that the superintendent of public
21 instruction may request to assure that the proposed flexible calendar
22 will not adversely affect student learning.

23 (3) The state board of education shall adopt rules establishing
24 the criteria to evaluate waiver requests under this section. A waiver
25 may be effective for up to three years and may be renewed for
26 subsequent periods of three or fewer years. After each school year in
27 which a waiver has been granted under this section, the
28 superintendent of public instruction must analyze empirical evidence
29 to determine whether the reduction is affecting student learning. If
30 the superintendent of public instruction determines that student
31 learning is adversely affected, the school district must discontinue
32 the flexible calendar as soon as possible but not later than the
33 beginning of the next school year after the superintendent of public
34 instruction's determination.

35 (4) The superintendent of public instruction may grant waivers
36 authorized under this section to (~~ten or fewer~~) school districts
37 with student populations of less than (~~five hundred~~) 1,000
38 students. (~~Of the ten waivers that may be granted, two must be~~

1 ~~reserved for districts with student populations of less than one~~
2 ~~hundred fifty students.)~~)

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