
SENATE BILL 5912

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1991 Regular Session

By Senators Metcalf, Stratton, Hayner, Owen, Thorsness, Conner and Amondson.

Read first time March 4, 1991. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to a program for educational opportunity grants in
2 designated urban areas; and adding new sections to chapter 74.13 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that students are
5 enriched by choices in appropriate educational alternatives. The
6 legislature further finds that students of preschool, elementary, and
7 junior and senior high school age in our large urban areas would
8 benefit by educational alternatives and opportunities not otherwise
9 economically available to them, and that such opportunities would be
10 especially beneficial to students from minority and economically
11 disadvantaged families. Furthermore, the empowerment of parents and
12 guardians of such students, through an educational opportunity grant
13 program, would strengthen both public and alternative educational
14 offerings, and would increase the academic performance of economically
15 deprived urban city youth. In addition, the legislature finds that the

1 program authorized by sections 1 through 7 of this act is necessary for
2 the support of economically disadvantaged and low-income families, and
3 especially of the children of economically disadvantaged and low-income
4 urban families.

5 For these reasons, the legislature believes that a pilot program of
6 educational opportunity grants to economically disadvantaged families
7 should be adopted. Such grants would be used for tuition and other
8 education costs at both public and private schools.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The state shall establish an
10 educational opportunity grant program to carry out the purposes of
11 section 1 of this act by September 1, 1991. This program shall expire
12 June 30, 1995, and shall be implemented along the following schedule:

- 13 (a) For the 1991-92 school year: Six hundred grants;
- 14 (b) For the 1992-93 school year: Eight hundred grants;
- 15 (c) For the 1993-94 school year: One thousand grants;
- 16 (d) For the 1994-95 school year: One thousand two hundred grants.

17 (2) The program shall be implemented in the Seattle, Tacoma, and
18 Spokane school districts.

19 (3) Those eligible for the grants authorized in subsection (1) of
20 this section are students of families whose income level is no greater
21 than one hundred seventy-five percent of the federal poverty level, or
22 educational opportunity foundations that would use such grants for the
23 benefit of such students.

24 (4) Grants created under subsection (1) of this section may be used
25 at any educational institution certified under RCW 28A.150.220 or
26 28A.195.010.

27 (5) Should applications exceed the number of designated grants,
28 choice of grant recipients shall be made by a lottery system, as
29 designed by rule, by the superintendent of public instruction.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) Grant payments shall be made by the
2 superintendent of public instruction in one of two methods: Either
3 directly to parents or guardians of students whose families qualify for
4 the grant program, or to educational opportunity foundations. Such
5 parents or guardians, or educational opportunity foundations, shall use
6 grant funds at any public or private school qualified under section 2
7 of this act. Accompanying the initial grant authorization from the
8 department of social and health services shall be a grant acceptance to
9 be cosigned either by a qualified parent or guardian, or appropriate
10 foundation official, as determined in section 2 of this act, and an
11 executive or financial officer of such a school. No final payment may
12 be made for any grant until the department has received the cosigned
13 acceptance for the grant.

14 (2) Grant moneys received or authorized by a parent or guardian or
15 by an appropriate foundation to be received by a qualified school, may
16 be used for tuition and other educational costs at any qualified public
17 or private school.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** "Educational opportunity foundations"
19 means foundations incorporated under the Washington nonprofit
20 corporation act whose primary purpose is to enhance educational
21 opportunities for students from economically poor backgrounds and
22 environments. Foundations are eligible to receive grant funds under
23 the program authorized in sections 1 through 7 of this act, as well as
24 encouraged to receive funding from individuals, corporations, other
25 foundations, and other persons interested in improving educational
26 opportunities for the poor. The superintendent of public instruction
27 shall maintain a register of such foundations.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The superintendent of public instruction
2 shall report to the education committees of the senate and the house of
3 representatives, the office of financial management, the department of
4 social and health services, and the state board of education on the
5 results of the pilot project established by section 2(1) of this act.
6 The report shall be completed and filed by January 10, 1993, and again
7 on January 10, 1995.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** (1) The department of social and health
9 services, the office of financial management, the superintendent of
10 public instruction, and the state board of education shall cooperate
11 with each other in implementing the program authorized by sections 1
12 through 7 of this act, and may enter into agreements with each other,
13 other state or local government agencies, and any federal government
14 agencies necessary to implement this program.

15 (2) The superintendent of public instruction may adopt rules
16 necessary to implement sections 1 through 7 of this act.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Access to the benefits of the program
18 authorized by sections 1 through 6 of this act shall be available to
19 all qualifying students, regardless of race, creed, religious
20 affiliation, physical or sensory handicap, intellectual ability, or
21 academic history.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** Grants shall be made by the
23 superintendent of public instruction from the amount of state
24 apportionment distributed according to state formula to students and
25 families residing in Seattle, Spokane, and Tacoma school districts.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** Sections 1 through 8 of this act are
2 each added to chapter 74.13 RCW.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** If any provision of this act or its
4 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
5 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
6 persons or circumstances is not affected.