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SENATE BILL 6417

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State of Washington

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By Senators McAuliffe, Eide, Loveland, Patterson, Costa, Prentice, Fraser, Kline, Rasmussen, Brown, Kohl-Welles, Bauer, B. Sheldon, Winsley and Goings

Read first time 01/14/2000. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to the education help line; and amending RCW  
2 28A.300.130.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.300.130 and 1999 c 388 s 401 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 (1) Expanding activity in educational research, educational  
7 restructuring, and educational improvement initiatives has produced and  
8 continues to produce much valuable information. The legislature finds  
9 that such information should be shared with the citizens and  
10 educational community of the state as widely as possible. To  
11 facilitate access to information and materials on educational  
12 improvement and research, the superintendent of public instruction, to  
13 the extent funds are appropriated, shall establish the center for the  
14 improvement of student learning. The primary purpose of the center is  
15 to provide assistance and advice to parents, school board members,  
16 educators, and the public regarding strategies for assisting students  
17 in learning the essential academic learning requirements pursuant to  
18 RCW ((~~28A.630.885~~)) 28A.655.060. The center shall work in conjunction  
19 with the academic achievement and accountability commission,

1 educational service districts, institutions of higher education, and  
2 education, parent, community, and business organizations.

3 (2) The center, in conjunction with other staff in the office of  
4 the superintendent of public instruction, shall:

5 (a) Establish, maintain, and staff full time, a help line with a  
6 toll-free phone number for parents, students, and interested citizens.  
7 The purpose of the help line is to promote public awareness and  
8 understanding of public education, identify issues of concern and  
9 interest that need response, and provide a resource for parents,  
10 students, and interested citizens who have questions about education  
11 and the local and state education systems;

12 (b) Serve as a clearinghouse for the completed work and activities  
13 of the academic achievement and accountability commission;

14 ~~((b))~~ (c) Serve as a clearinghouse for information regarding  
15 successful educational improvement and parental involvement programs in  
16 schools and districts, and information about efforts within  
17 institutions of higher education in the state to support educational  
18 improvement initiatives in Washington schools and districts;

19 ~~((e))~~ (d) Provide best practices research and advice that can be  
20 used to help schools develop and implement: Programs and practices to  
21 improve instruction of the essential academic learning requirements  
22 ~~((under section 701 of this act))~~; systems to analyze student  
23 assessment data, with an emphasis on systems that will combine the use  
24 of state and local data to monitor the academic progress of each and  
25 every student in the school district; comprehensive, school-wide  
26 improvement plans; school-based shared decision-making models; programs  
27 to promote lifelong learning and community involvement in education;  
28 school-to-work transition programs; programs to meet the needs of  
29 highly capable students; programs and practices to meet the diverse  
30 needs of students based on gender, racial, ethnic, economic, and  
31 special needs status; research, information, and technology systems;  
32 and other programs and practices that will assist educators in helping  
33 students learn the essential academic learning requirements;

34 ~~((d))~~ (e) Develop and distribute, in conjunction with the  
35 academic achievement and accountability commission, parental  
36 involvement materials, including instructional guides developed to  
37 inform parents of the essential academic learning requirements. The  
38 instructional guides also shall contain actions parents may take to  
39 assist their children in meeting the requirements, and should focus on

1 reaching parents who have not previously been involved with their  
2 children's education;

3 ~~((e))~~ (f) Identify obstacles to greater parent and community  
4 involvement in school shared decision-making processes and recommend  
5 strategies for helping parents and community members to participate  
6 effectively in school shared decision-making processes, including  
7 understanding and respecting the roles of school building  
8 administrators and staff;

9 ~~((f))~~ (g) Develop and maintain an internet web site to increase  
10 the availability of information, research, and other materials;

11 ~~((g))~~ (h) Take other actions to increase public awareness of the  
12 importance of parental and community involvement in education;

13 ~~((h))~~ (i) Work with appropriate organizations to inform teachers,  
14 district and school administrators, and school directors about the  
15 waivers available and the broadened school board powers under RCW  
16 28A.320.015;

17 ~~((i))~~ (j) Provide training and consultation services, including  
18 conducting regional summer institutes;

19 ~~((j))~~ (k) Address methods for improving the success rates of  
20 certain ethnic and racial student groups; and

21 ~~((k))~~ (l) Perform other functions consistent with the purpose of  
22 the center as prescribed in subsection (1) of this section.

23 (3) The superintendent of public instruction, after consultation  
24 with the academic achievement and accountability commission, shall  
25 select and employ a director for the center.

26 (4) The superintendent may enter into contracts with individuals or  
27 organizations including but not limited to: School districts;  
28 educational service districts; educational organizations; teachers;  
29 higher education faculty; institutions of higher education; state  
30 agencies; business or community-based organizations; and other  
31 individuals and organizations to accomplish the duties and  
32 responsibilities of the center. In carrying out the duties and  
33 responsibilities of the center, the superintendent, whenever possible,  
34 shall use practitioners to assist agency staff as well as assist  
35 educators and others in schools and districts.

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