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SENATE BILL 5543

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State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Senators Kastama, McAuliffe, Eide, Regala, Rasmussen, Thibaudeau, Costa, Kohl-Welles and Winsley; by request of Governor Locke and Superintendent of Public Instruction

Read first time 01/25/2001. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to school safety; adding a new section to chapter  
2 28A.320 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that a supportive  
5 learning environment enhances student academic achievement. A  
6 supportive learning environment is one that is safe, civil, healthy,  
7 and intellectually stimulating where students are engaged in learning  
8 and are committed to acquiring the knowledge, attitudes, skills, and  
9 behaviors to succeed in the twenty-first century.

10 The legislature intends to improve the student learning environment  
11 by helping school districts implement comprehensive safe school plans  
12 that assist schools in providing a safe learning environment.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.320  
14 RCW to read as follows:

15 (1) To the extent funds are appropriated for this purpose, each  
16 local school board shall establish a policy requiring that each school  
17 in its district develop a written comprehensive safe school plan  
18 consistent with this section.

1 (2) For the purposes of this section, a comprehensive safe school  
2 plan is a school-based plan that includes prevention, intervention, all  
3 hazards and crisis response, and postcrisis recovery components  
4 developed to ensure the maintenance of a safe learning environment for  
5 students and adults. The office of the superintendent of public  
6 instruction shall develop a comprehensive safe school plan model  
7 consistent with this section.

8 (3) When developing the plan, school personnel shall consider the  
9 school's physical plant, personnel, administrative policies and  
10 procedures, student and parent involvement, curriculum, instruction,  
11 and community agency partnerships.

12 (4) Schools are encouraged to include parents, teachers, students,  
13 school and other staff, and local fire, law enforcement, medical, and  
14 emergency management agencies in the development of the plan.

15 (5) The school district board of directors shall establish a  
16 process for approval of individual school plans. Plans shall be  
17 approved by September 1, 2002. Once approved, the school district  
18 shall develop a process to inform students, staff, volunteers, and  
19 parents about its comprehensive safe school plans.

20 (6) Each school shall annually conduct an evaluation of its  
21 comprehensive safe school plan and conduct reviews, drills, or  
22 simulated practices in coordination with local fire, law enforcement,  
23 medical, and emergency management agencies. Districts also shall  
24 annually provide information on the implementation and evaluation of  
25 the plans to parents and students.

26 (7) Each school shall maintain a copy of its comprehensive safe  
27 school plan and documentation of yearly reviews, drills, or simulated  
28 practices within the office of the school principal and shall make a  
29 copy of the report available for review upon written request.

30 (8) To the extent funds are appropriated for this purpose, the  
31 office of the superintendent of public instruction shall provide  
32 technical assistance to schools and school districts in the development  
33 of their comprehensive safe school plans.

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