
SENATE BILL 5877

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Senators Johnson, McAuliffe, Kohl-Welles and Rasmussen; by request of Governor Locke

Read first time 02/18/2003. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to the learning assistance program; adding new
2 sections to chapter 28A.165 RCW; and repealing RCW 28A.165.010,
3 28A.165.012, 28A.165.030, 28A.165.040, 28A.165.050, 28A.165.060,
4 28A.165.070, 28A.165.080, and 28A.165.090.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** FINDINGS--INTENT. The legislature finds
7 that many students do not meet the state achievement standards in the
8 basic skills areas of reading, writing, and mathematics. Research
9 indicates that it is possible to close the achievement gap between
10 those assessed as below standard and those assessed as at or above
11 standard by providing students with rigorous academic coursework
12 coupled with effective instructional strategies and additional learning
13 time. Research also indicates that there is a clear pattern between
14 student achievement and socioeconomic status and that many of the
15 students achieving below standard are in schools with high
16 concentrations of poverty. It is the legislature's intent to assist
17 school districts in meeting the needs of underachieving students who
18 must have their achievement accelerated to close the achievement gap
19 and ultimately meet state basic skills standards.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** PURPOSE. The learning assistance program
2 requirements in this chapter are designed to: (1) Assist school
3 districts in understanding the nature of their achievement gaps; and
4 (2) guide school districts in providing the most effective and
5 efficient practices in implementation of their program. Further, this
6 chapter provides the means by which a school district becomes eligible
7 for learning assistance program funds and the distribution of those
8 funds.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** DEFINITIONS. Unless the context clearly
10 indicates otherwise the definitions in this section apply throughout
11 this chapter.

12 (1) "Achievement gap" means the disparity in achievement scores
13 among traditionally underachieving groups of students.

14 (2) "Approved program" means a program submitted to and approved by
15 the office of the superintendent of public instruction and conducted
16 pursuant to the plan that addresses the required elements as provided
17 for in this chapter.

18 (3) "Basic skills areas" means reading, writing, and mathematics as
19 well as readiness associated with these skills.

20 (4) "Basic skills assessments" means one or more of the several
21 basic skills assessments administered as part of the state's student
22 assessment system, and assessments in the basic skills areas
23 administered by local school districts.

24 (5) "Participating student" means a student in kindergarten through
25 grade nine who scores below standard for his or her grade level on
26 basic skills assessments and who is identified in the approved plan to
27 receive services.

28 (6) "Underachieving students" means students with the greatest
29 academic deficits in basic skills as identified by basic skills
30 assessments.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** PROGRAM PLAN. Each school district applying
32 for learning assistance program funds shall submit a plan for the use
33 of these funds. The school district plan shall include the following:

34 (1) District and school-level data on reading, writing, and
35 mathematics achievement as reported pursuant to chapter 28A.655 RCW and
36 P.L. 107-110;

- 1 (2) Processes used for identifying the underachieving students to
2 be served by the program, including the identification of school or
3 program sites providing program activities;
- 4 (3) How accelerated learning plans are developed and implemented
5 for participating students, including:
- 6 (a) Achievement goals for the students;
- 7 (b) Roles of the student, parents, or guardians and teachers in the
8 plan;
- 9 (c) Communication procedures regarding student accomplishment; and
10 (d) Plan reviews and adjustments processes;
- 11 (4) How state level and classroom assessments are used to inform
12 instruction;
- 13 (5) How focused and intentional instructional strategies have been
14 identified and implemented;
- 15 (6) How highly qualified instructional staff are developed and
16 supported in the program and in participating schools;
- 17 (7) How other federal, state, district, and school resources are
18 coordinated with school improvement plans and the district's strategic
19 plan to support underachieving students; and
- 20 (8) How a program evaluation will be conducted to determine
21 direction for the following school year.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** PROGRAM ACTIVITIES. Use of best practices
23 magnifies the opportunities for student success. The following are
24 services and activities that may be supported by the learning
25 assistance program:

- 26 (1) Extended learning time opportunities occurring:
- 27 (a) Before or after the regular school day;
- 28 (b) On Saturday; and
- 29 (c) Beyond the regular school year;
- 30 (2) Professional development for certificated and classified staff
31 that focuses on:
- 32 (a) The needs of a diverse student population;
- 33 (b) Specific literacy and mathematics content and instructional
34 strategies; and
- 35 (c) The use of student work to guide effective instruction;
- 36 (3) Consultant teachers to assist in implementing effective
37 instructional practices by teachers serving participating students;

- 1 (4) Tutoring support for participating students; and
- 2 (5) Outreach activities and support for parents of participating
- 3 students.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** PLAN APPROVAL PROCESS. A participating
5 school district shall annually submit a program plan to the office of
6 the superintendent of public instruction for approval. The program
7 plan must address all of the elements in section 4 of this act and
8 identify the program activities to be implemented from section 5 of
9 this act.

10 School districts achieving reading and mathematics goals as
11 prescribed in chapter 28A.655 RCW shall have their program approved
12 once the program plan and activities submittal is completed.

13 School districts not achieving reading and mathematics goals as
14 prescribed in chapter 28A.655 RCW and that are not in a state or
15 federal program of school improvement shall be subject to program
16 approval once the plan components are reviewed by the office of the
17 superintendent of public instruction for the purpose of receiving
18 technical assistance in the final development of the plan.

19 School districts with one or more schools in a state or federal
20 program of school improvement shall have their plans and activities
21 reviewed and approved in conjunction with the state or federal program
22 school improvement program requirements.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** FUNDS--ELIGIBILITY--DISTRIBUTION. Each
24 school district that has established an approved program is eligible,
25 as determined by the superintendent of public instruction, for state
26 funds made available for the purposes of such programs. The
27 superintendent of public instruction shall distribute funds
28 appropriated for the learning assistance program in accordance with the
29 biennial appropriations act. The distribution formula is for district
30 allocation purposes only.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** MONITORING. To ensure that school districts
32 are meeting the requirements of an approved program, the superintendent
33 of public instruction shall monitor such programs no less than once
34 every four years. Individual student records shall be maintained at
35 the school district.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** RULES. The superintendent of public
2 instruction shall adopt rules in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW that
3 the superintendent deems necessary to implement this chapter.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** CAPTIONS NOT LAW. Captions used in this
5 act are not any part of the law.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** The following acts or parts of acts are
7 each repealed:

8 (1) RCW 28A.165.010 (Intent) and 1989 c 233 s 1 & 1987 c 478 s 1;

9 (2) RCW 28A.165.012 (Program created) and 1987 c 478 s 2;

10 (3) RCW 28A.165.030 (Definitions) and 1999 c 78 s 1, 1990 c 33 s
11 148, & 1987 c 478 s 3;

12 (4) RCW 28A.165.040 (Application for state funds--Needs
13 assessment--Plan) and 1990 c 33 s 149, 1989 c 233 s 2, & 1987 c 478 s
14 4;

15 (5) RCW 28A.165.050 (Identification of students--Coordination of
16 use of funds) and 1987 c 478 s 5;

17 (6) RCW 28A.165.060 (Services or activities under program) and 1989
18 c 233 s 3 & 1987 c 478 s 6;

19 (7) RCW 28A.165.070 (Eligibility for funds--Distribution of funds--
20 Development of allocation formula) and 1995 1st sp.s. c 13 s 1, 1993
21 sp.s. c 24 s 520, 1990 c 33 s 150, & 1987 c 478 s 7;

22 (8) RCW 28A.165.080 (Monitoring) and 1990 c 33 s 151 & 1987 c 478
23 s 8; and

24 (9) RCW 28A.165.090 (Rules) and 1990 c 33 s 152 & 1987 c 478 s 9.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** Sections 1 through 10 of this act are each
26 added to chapter 28A.165 RCW.

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