
SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1573

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2007 Regular Session

By House Committee on Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Quall, Priest, P. Sullivan, Pettigrew, Kenney, Kagi, Wallace, McCoy, Dickerson, Lovick, Santos, Hunt, Hasegawa, Simpson, Pedersen, Morrell, Conway, Lantz, O'Brien and Ormsby; by request of Superintendent of Public Instruction)

READ FIRST TIME 03/12/07.

1 AN ACT Relating to dropout prevention, intervention, and retrieval;
2 adding new sections to chapter 28A.175 RCW; creating new sections; and
3 providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** It is the intent of the legislature that
6 increasing academic success and increasing graduation rates be dual
7 goals for the K-12 system. The legislature finds that only seventy-
8 four percent of the class of 2005 graduated on time. Students of
9 color, students living in poverty, students in foster care, students in
10 the juvenile justice system, students who are homeless, students for
11 whom English is not their primary language, and students with
12 disabilities have lower graduation rates than the average. The
13 legislature further finds that students who drop out experience more
14 frequent occurrences of early pregnancy, delinquency, substance abuse,
15 and mental health issues, and have greater need of publicly funded
16 health and social services. The legislature further finds that helping
17 all students be successful in school requires active participation in
18 coordinating services from schools, parents, and other stakeholders and
19 agencies in the local community. The legislature finds that existing

1 resources to vulnerable youth are used more efficiently and effectively
2 when there is significant coordination across local and state entities.
3 The legislature further finds that efficiency and accountability of the
4 K-12 system would be improved by creating a dropout prevention and
5 intervention grant program that implements research-based and emerging
6 best practices and evaluates results.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Subject to the availability of funds
8 appropriated for this purpose, the office of the superintendent of
9 public instruction shall create a grant program and award grants to
10 local partnerships of schools, families, and communities to begin the
11 phase in of a statewide comprehensive dropout prevention, intervention,
12 and retrieval system. This program shall be known as the building
13 bridges program.

14 (1) For purposes of sections 2 through 7 of this act, a "building
15 bridges program" means a local partnership of schools, families, and
16 communities that provides all of the following programs or activities:

17 (a) A system that identifies individual students at risk of
18 dropping out from middle through high school based on local predictive
19 data, including state assessment data starting in the fourth grade, and
20 provides timely interventions for such students and for dropouts,
21 including a plan for educational success as already required by the
22 student learning plan as defined under RCW 28A.655.061. Students
23 identified shall include foster care youth, youth involved in the
24 juvenile justice system, and students receiving special education
25 services under chapter 28A.155 RCW;

26 (b) Coaches or mentors for students as necessary;

27 (c) Staff responsible for coordination of community partners that
28 provide a seamless continuum of academic and nonacademic support in
29 schools and communities;

30 (d) Retrieval or reentry activities; and

31 (e) Alternative educational programming, including, but not limited
32 to, career and technical education exploratory and preparatory programs
33 and online learning opportunities.

34 (2) One of the grants awarded under this section shall be for a
35 two-year demonstration project focusing on providing fifth through
36 twelfth grade students with a program that utilizes technology and is

1 integrated with state standards, basic academics, cross-cultural
2 exposures, and age-appropriate preemployment training. The project
3 shall:

4 (a) Establish programs in two western Washington and one eastern
5 Washington urban areas;

6 (b) Identify at-risk students in each of the distinct communities
7 and populations and implement strategies to close the achievement gap;

8 (c) Collect and report data on participant characteristics and
9 outcomes of the project, including the characteristics and outcomes
10 specified under section 3(1)(e) of this act; and

11 (d) Submit a report to the legislature by December 1, 2009.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The office of the superintendent of
13 public instruction shall:

14 (a) Identify criteria for grants and evaluate proposals for funding
15 in consultation with the workforce training and education coordinating
16 board;

17 (b) Develop and monitor requirements for grant recipients to:

18 (i) Identify eligible students, including students who both fail
19 the Washington assessment of student learning and drop out of school;

20 (ii) Identify their own strengths and gaps in services provided to
21 youth;

22 (iii) Set their own local goals for program outcomes;

23 (iv) Use research-based and emerging best practices that lead to
24 positive outcomes in implementing the building bridges program; and

25 (v) Coordinate an outreach campaign to bring public and private
26 organizations together and to provide information about the building
27 bridges program to the local community;

28 (c) In setting the requirements under (b) of this subsection,
29 encourage creativity and provide for flexibility in implementing the
30 local building bridges program;

31 (d) Identify and disseminate successful practices;

32 (e) Develop requirements for grant recipients to collect and report
33 data, including, but not limited to:

34 (i) The number of and demographics of students served including,
35 but not limited to, information regarding a student's race and
36 ethnicity, a student's household income, a student's housing status,

1 whether a student is a foster youth or youth involved in the juvenile
2 justice system, whether a student is disabled, and the primary language
3 spoken at a student's home;
4 (ii) Washington assessment of student learning scores;
5 (iii) Dropout rates;
6 (iv) On-time graduation rates;
7 (v) Extended graduation rates;
8 (vi) Credentials obtained;
9 (vii) Absenteeism rates;
10 (viii) Truancy rates; and
11 (ix) Credit retrieval;
12 (f) Contract with a third party to evaluate the infrastructure and
13 implementation of the partnership including the leveraging of outside
14 resources that relate to the goal of the partnership. The third-party
15 contractor shall also evaluate the performance and effectiveness of the
16 partnerships relative to the type of entity, as identified in section
17 4 of this act, serving as the lead agency for the partnership; and
18 (g) Report to the legislature by December 1, 2008.
19 (2) In performing its duties under this section, the office of the
20 superintendent of public instruction is encouraged to consult with the
21 work group identified in section 7 of this act.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** In awarding the grants under section 2 of
23 this act, the office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
24 prioritize schools or districts with dropout rates above the statewide
25 average and shall attempt to award building bridges program grants to
26 different geographic regions of the state. Eligible recipients shall
27 be one of the following entities acting as a lead agency for the local
28 partnership: A school district, a tribal school, an area workforce
29 development council, an educational service district, an accredited
30 institution of higher education, a vocational skills center, a
31 federally recognized tribe, a community organization, or a nonprofit
32 501(c)(3) corporation. If the recipient is not a school district, at
33 least one school district must be identified within the partnership.
34 The superintendent of public instruction shall ensure that at least
35 fifty percent of the total grant funds awarded under section 2 of this
36 act are awarded to recipients other than school districts.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** To be eligible for a grant under section 2
2 of this act, grant applicants shall:

3 (1) Build or demonstrate a commitment to building a broad-based
4 partnership of schools, families, and community members to provide an
5 effective and efficient building bridges program. The partnership
6 shall consider an effective model for school-community partnerships and
7 include local membership from, but not limited to, school districts,
8 tribal schools, secondary career and technical education programs,
9 skill centers that serve the local community, an educational service
10 district, the area workforce development council, accredited
11 institutions of higher education, tribes or other cultural
12 organizations, the parent teacher association, the juvenile court,
13 prosecutors and defenders, the local health department, health care
14 agencies, public transportation agencies, local division
15 representatives of the department of social and health services,
16 businesses, city or county government agencies, civic organizations,
17 and appropriate youth-serving community-based organizations.
18 Interested parents and students shall be actively included whenever
19 possible;

20 (2) Demonstrate how the grant will enhance any dropout prevention
21 and intervention programs and services already in place in the
22 district;

23 (3) Provide a twenty-five percent match that may include in-kind
24 resources from within the partnership;

25 (4) Track and report data required by the grant; and

26 (5) Describe how the dropout prevention, intervention, and
27 retrieval system will be sustained after initial funding, including
28 roles of each of the partners.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** (1) Educational service districts, in
30 collaboration with area workforce development councils, shall:

31 (a) Provide technical assistance to local partnerships established
32 under a grant awarded under section 2 of this act in collecting and
33 using performance data; and

34 (b) At the request of a local partnership established under a grant
35 awarded under section 2 of this act, provide assistance in the
36 development of a functional sustainability plan, including the
37 identification of potential funding sources for future operation.

1 (2) Local partnerships established under a grant awarded under
2 section 2 of this act may contract with an educational service
3 district, workforce development council, or a private agency for
4 specialized training in such areas as cultural competency, identifying
5 diverse learning styles, and intervention strategies for students at
6 risk of dropping out of school.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** (1) The office of the superintendent of
8 public instruction shall establish a state-level work group that
9 includes K-12 and state agencies that work with youth who have dropped
10 out or are at risk of dropping out of school. The state-level
11 leadership group shall consist of one representative from each of the
12 following agencies and organizations: The workforce training and
13 education coordinating board; career and technical education including
14 skill centers; relevant divisions of the department of social and
15 health services; the juvenile courts; the employment security
16 department; accredited institutions of higher education; the
17 educational service districts; the area workforce development councils;
18 parent and educator associations; the department of health; local
19 school districts; agencies or organizations that provide services to
20 special education students; community organizations serving youth;
21 federally recognized tribes and urban tribal centers; each of the major
22 political caucuses of the senate and house of representatives; and the
23 minority commissions.

24 (2) To assist and enhance the work of the building bridges programs
25 established in section 5 of this act, the state-level work group shall:

26 (a) Identify and make recommendations to the legislature for the
27 reduction of fiscal, legal, and regulatory barriers that prevent
28 coordination of program resources across agencies at the state and
29 local level;

30 (b) Develop and track performance measures and benchmarks for each
31 partner agency or organization across the state including performance
32 measures and benchmarks based on student characteristics and outcomes
33 specified in section 3(1)(e) of this act; and

34 (c) Identify research-based and emerging best practices regarding
35 prevention, intervention, and retrieval programs.

36 (3) The work group shall report to the legislature and the governor

1 on an annual basis beginning December 1, 2007, with recommendations for
2 implementing emerging best practices, needed additional resources, and
3 eliminating barriers.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** (1) School districts may use basic education
5 allocations under RCW 28A.150.250 to fund contracts with alternative
6 educational service providers that provide education programs for
7 students who are at risk of dropping out of school, or who have dropped
8 out of school, if the educational service provider meets the following
9 criteria:

10 (a) Provides access to at least twenty-five hours of instruction
11 per week; however, funding need not be based on seat-time attendance
12 requirements;

13 (b) Provides GED content area instruction or high school credit
14 recovery instruction from recognized curriculum; and

15 (c) Has certificated teachers or community and technical college
16 faculty to provide and oversee instruction.

17 (2) The state-level work group established under section 7 of this
18 act shall examine issues related to school districts' use of basic
19 education allocations under this section including, but not limited to,
20 findings or other relevant communications by the state auditor. The
21 work group shall develop recommendations and submit a report to the
22 appropriate legislative committees by December 1, 2009.

23 (3) This section expires June 30, 2010.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** Sections 2 through 8 of this act are each
25 added to chapter 28A.175 RCW.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** If specific funding for the purposes of
27 this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not
28 provided by June 30, 2007, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act
29 is null and void.

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