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HOUSE BILL 2810

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State of Washington                      60th Legislature                      2008 Regular Session

By Representatives Sullivan, Quall, Upthegrove, Anderson, Conway, Kenney, Haigh, Hudgins, Santos, Simpson, and Ormsby

Read first time 01/16/08. Referred to Committee on Education.

1            AN ACT Relating to enhancing resources and assistance in school  
2 districts with concentrations of English language learner students;  
3 amending RCW 28A.165.055; and creating a new section.

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

5            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** (1) Research has shown there is a negative  
6 impact on student achievement in schools with a very large proportion  
7 of low-income students and that this effect is larger than would  
8 otherwise be expected without the poverty concentration. This  
9 multiplier effect is the reason that federal Title I programs require  
10 a special schoolwide approach to remediation in schools with greater  
11 than forty percent low-income students. State allocations for the  
12 learning assistance program also provide a resource enhancement for  
13 school districts with greater than forty percent low-income students.

14            (2) Research has not been conducted regarding a possible multiplier  
15 effect on student achievement from high concentrations of English  
16 language learner students. However, it is very clear that English  
17 language learner students face significant challenges in meeting the  
18 state's academic learning standards. Resources from the transitional  
19 bilingual instruction program are intended to provide these students

1 with English language competencies, but a significant proportion of  
2 these students need additional learning opportunities and assistance if  
3 they are expected to meet the same standards as other students. Some  
4 school districts in the state have a disproportionate number of both  
5 English language learner and low-income students and thus face a  
6 disproportionate challenge in assisting these students.

7 (3) Therefore, the legislature intends to provide a resource  
8 enhancement to school districts through the learning assistance program  
9 based on high concentrations of English language learner students.

10 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.165.055 and 2005 c 489 s 1 are each amended to  
11 read as follows:

12 (1) Each school district with an approved program is eligible for  
13 state funds provided for the learning assistance program. The funds  
14 shall be appropriated for the learning assistance program in accordance  
15 with the biennial appropriations act. The distribution formula is for  
16 school district allocation purposes only. The distribution formula  
17 shall be based on one or more family income factors measuring economic  
18 need.

19 (2) In addition to the funds allocated to eligible school districts  
20 on the basis of family income factors, enhanced funds shall be  
21 allocated for school districts where more than twenty percent of  
22 students are eligible for and enrolled in the transitional bilingual  
23 instruction program under chapter 28A.180 RCW as provided in this  
24 subsection.

25 (a) If, in the prior school year, a district's percent of October  
26 headcount student enrollment in grades kindergarten through twelve who  
27 are enrolled in the transitional bilingual instruction program, based  
28 on an average of the program headcount taken in October and May,  
29 exceeds twenty percent, twenty percent shall be subtracted from the  
30 district's percent transitional bilingual instruction program  
31 enrollment and the resulting percent shall be multiplied by the  
32 district's kindergarten through twelve annual average full-time  
33 equivalent enrollment for the prior school year.

34 (b) The number calculated under (a) of this subsection shall be the  
35 number of additional funded students for purposes of this subsection,  
36 to be multiplied by the per-funded student allocation rates specified  
37 in the omnibus appropriations act.

1        (c) School districts are only eligible for the enhanced funds under  
2 this subsection if their percentage of October headcount enrollment in  
3 grades kindergarten through twelve eligible for free or reduced price  
4 lunch exceeded forty percent in the prior school year.

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