
SENATE BILL 5415

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2007 Regular Session

By Senators Kohl-Welles, McAuliffe, Keiser, Franklin, Murray, Rasmussen, Hobbs and Tom

Read first time 01/18/2007. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to school health advisory councils; adding new
2 sections to chapter 28A.210 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 the overall death
5 rate for those with fewer than twelve years of education is more than
6 twice that for people with more education. Students who drop out also
7 experience higher rates of early pregnancy and substance abuse and they
8 often require more social services of various types. Graduation rates
9 in Washington vary significantly by racial and ethnic groups and by
10 gender. These rates reflect the same type of disparity that is found
11 on health indicators of teen pregnancy, chronic disease, and the use of
12 tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs. Academic and health outcomes are
13 inexorably linked. It is the goal of this act to create a system for
14 proactively coordinating approaches to improving child and adolescent
15 health and education outcomes in Washington.

16 Schools should do all they can to promote student health and well-
17 being if Washington's ambitious academic achievement goals and the
18 goals of the federal no child left behind act of 2001 are to be

1 realistically attained. Schools cannot achieve their primary mission
2 of education if students and staff are not physically, mentally, and
3 socially healthy.

4 Schools often have multiple advisory groups with health-related
5 missions that overlap, which can result in competition for resources
6 and influence. Consolidation of these groups into school health
7 advisory councils with broad missions leads to efficiency,
8 nonduplication of efforts, and a coordinated approach to student and
9 school health. Leadership at the state level is also required. A
10 purpose of this act is to create a state level school health advisory
11 council to provide guidance on coordination of many efforts that start
12 in state level agencies and organizations.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.210
14 RCW to read as follows:

15 (1) The Washington state school health advisory council is created
16 consisting of twenty members.

17 (2) Members of the council shall include one representative from
18 each of the following organizations or agencies: The department of
19 health; the Washington academy of pediatrics; the American cancer
20 society; the University of Washington school of public health; the
21 nursing commission; the Washington asthma institute; the family policy
22 council; the health and recovery services administration; the
23 children's alliance; the state board of health; the superintendent of
24 public instruction or the superintendent's designee; the Washington
25 State University cooperative extension; the Washington association for
26 health, physical education, recreation, and dance; the Washington
27 school nutrition association; the school nurses of Washington; the
28 Washington state parent and teacher association; the Washington
29 education association; the Washington association of school
30 administrators; the Washington state school directors' association; and
31 the state board of education.

32 (3)(a) Councilmembers shall serve for terms of three years except
33 for the initial members, whose terms shall be staggered so that six
34 shall serve for one-year terms, seven shall serve for two-year terms,
35 and seven shall serve for full three-year terms. Members may serve
36 more than one term. If a vacancy occurs, the organization or agency
37 that made the original designation shall appoint a person to fill the

1 vacancy for the remainder of the leaving member's term. Members of the
2 council shall serve without pay but may receive reimbursement for
3 travel expenses if funds are available.

4 (b) The council shall select from its membership a chair and a
5 vice-chair who shall each serve a one-year term. The chair and vice-
6 chair may serve more than one term if selected to do so by the members.

7 (c) The council shall meet at least quarterly.

8 (d) The department of health and the office of the superintendent
9 of public instruction's coordinated school health infrastructure
10 initiative shall provide office space and staffing for the council.

11 (4) Powers and duties of the council include but are not limited
12 to: Modeling collaboration and coordination of all aspects of school
13 health programs; identifying and recommending model policies and
14 procedures that result in efficient uses of resources to improve
15 student and school health; developing model program guidelines, sample
16 policies, resource lists, and position papers to further the work of
17 school district health advisory councils, including obesity prevention
18 strategies; and promoting the coordinated school health approach.

19 (5) The council shall submit an annual report to the legislature on
20 the progress of the local school health advisory councils and of their
21 own activities by December of each year.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.210
23 RCW to read as follows:

24 The legislature intends to develop a grant program to enable school
25 districts to establish and maintain a school district health advisory
26 council. A school district may, in its discretion, use the grant
27 program funds to establish councils at each school within the district
28 in order to assist in meeting the requirements established in this
29 section. It is the intent of the legislature that the school district
30 health advisory councils:

31 (1) Assist in the development of health policy at the district
32 level;

33 (2) Evaluate the status of school and student health, health and
34 physical education, the school environment, and food service,
35 counseling and support, and health services;

36 (3) Recommend to the local school board policies and procedures
37 relating to students with acute or chronic illnesses or conditions;

1 health and safety; physical activity, obesity prevention, and
2 nutrition; contaminants and toxins; delivery of health services; and/or
3 other issues deemed appropriate based on the scope and membership of
4 the school district health advisory council;

5 (4) Coordinate the school district's health and other related
6 student support services with other relevant services within the
7 community;

8 (5) Be composed of members who broadly represent the community and
9 education stakeholders including, but not limited to, parents,
10 students, teachers, health professionals, employee bargaining units,
11 school facility staff, educators, district officials, and business
12 leaders. The council membership should adequately represent school
13 environmental health, health services, health and fitness education,
14 nutrition services, guidance and psychosocial health, parent and
15 community involvement, and staff wellness.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.210
17 RCW to read as follows:

18 (1) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
19 allocate grants from private donations or within amounts appropriated
20 for this specific purpose to allow school districts to establish and
21 maintain a school district health advisory council. The grants shall
22 be awarded on a competitive basis. Priority shall be given to
23 districts that best meet the criteria established in section 3 of this
24 act.

25 (2) The school district health advisory council shall hold meetings
26 at least twice a year and shall biennially report on the status and
27 needs of student health and safety in the school district to the
28 schools within the district, the school board, the department of
29 health, and the office of the superintendent of public instruction.

30 (3) The local school superintendent and the local health officer
31 shall jointly be responsible for the establishment and maintenance of
32 the school district health advisory council with assistance from the
33 Washington state school health advisory council.

--- END ---