
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5450

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2007 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education (originally sponsored by Senators Rasmussen, McAuliffe, Tom and Keiser)

READ FIRST TIME 02/20/07.

1 AN ACT Relating to students with disabilities; adding a new section
2 to chapter 28A.155 RCW; creating new sections; and declaring an
3 emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds:

6 (1) There are students with disabilities throughout the state of
7 Washington who have attended four years of high school, but whose
8 individualized education programs prescribe the continuation of special
9 education and related services beyond the fourth year of high school;

10 (2) Through their participation in the public schools and the
11 community, students with disabilities have frequently become identified
12 with and connected to a class of typically developing, age-appropriate
13 peers who will graduate in four years and participate in a high school
14 graduation ceremony;

15 (3) A high school graduation ceremony is an important rite of
16 passage for students regardless of their abilities or limitations; and

17 (4) There is significant value in allowing students with
18 disabilities to participate in high school graduation ceremonies and

1 activities with their age-appropriate peers without the forfeiture of
2 their continuing special education and related services.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.155
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 (1) Beginning July 1, 2007, each school district that operates a
6 high school shall establish a policy and procedures that permit any
7 student who is receiving special education or related services under an
8 individualized education program pursuant to state and federal law and
9 who will continue to receive such services between the ages of eighteen
10 and twenty-one and who has met a majority of his or her individualized
11 education program goals and is working on a transition plan, to
12 participate in the graduation ceremony and activities after four years
13 of high school attendance with his or her age-appropriate peers and
14 receive a certificate of attendance.

15 (2) Participation in a graduation ceremony and receipt of a
16 certificate of attendance under this section does not preclude a
17 student from continuing to receive special education and related
18 services under an individualized education program beyond the
19 graduation ceremony.

20 (3) A student's participation in a graduation ceremony and receipt
21 of a certificate of attendance under this section shall not be
22 construed as the student's receipt of either:

23 (a) A high school diploma pursuant to RCW 28A.230.120; or

24 (b) A certificate of individual achievement pursuant to RCW
25 28A.155.045.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act may be known and cited as Kevin's
27 law.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act is necessary for the immediate
29 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
30 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
31 immediately.

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