
HOUSE BILL 2631

State of Washington

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2010 Regular Session

By Representatives Probst, Quall, Pettigrew, Orwall, Kenney, Carlyle, Hunt, Jacks, Conway, Simpson, Kagi, Seaquist, White, Miloscia, and Ormsby

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1 AN ACT Relating to creating a dropout prevention recognition
2 program; adding new sections to chapter 28A.175 RCW; and creating new
3 sections.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that:

6 (a) Providing students with the opportunity to graduate from high
7 school with the knowledge and skills to be successful in today's world
8 is now clearly part of Washington's definition of a basic education.
9 Some students will only achieve this objective with supplemental
10 interventions, support, and counseling;

11 (b) Dropout prevention is a fundamental strategy for strengthening
12 our society, building our economy, reducing crime, reducing government
13 spending, and increasing individual freedom and opportunity;

14 (c) For every dropout prevented, the chances of that person
15 committing a crime are reduced by twenty percent, and that person
16 stands to increase his or her lifetime earnings by three hundred
17 thousand dollars in today's dollars. In addition, for every dropout
18 prevented, taxpayers save an estimated ten thousand five hundred

1 dollars per year for each year of the individual's life between the
2 ages of twenty and sixty-five;

3 (d) There are known and proven strategies to reduce the dropout
4 rate, including ones that are successful for high risk and troubled
5 students, but these proven models have never been brought to scale; and

6 (e) Grants and project-based funding will never provide a
7 sustainable source of resources to support dropout prevention
8 strategies.

9 (2) Therefore, the state should use a market-based approach and
10 make a long-term commitment to recognize and reward demonstrated
11 success in reducing the dropout rate by investing the savings generated
12 from each prevented dropout in the public schools.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.175
14 RCW to read as follows:

15 (1) Effective July 1, 2013, the dropout prevention recognition
16 program is created as provided in this section and sections 3 through
17 6 of this act to provide a financial award for high schools that
18 demonstrate reduction from one school year to the next in high school
19 dropouts, based on a measure of dropout prevention that has been
20 statistically adjusted for student demographics and made reliable over
21 time.

22 (2) The office of the superintendent of public instruction, in
23 consultation with the state board of education, shall:

24 (a) Calculate the annual extended graduation rate for each high
25 school, which is the rate at which a class of students enters high
26 school as freshmen and graduates with a high school diploma, including
27 students who receive a high school diploma after the year they were
28 expected to graduate;

29 (b) Adjust the rate for student transfers and statistically adjust
30 the rate for student demographics in the high school, including the
31 number of students eligible for free and reduced price meals, special
32 education and English language learner students, students of various
33 racial and ethnic backgrounds, and student mobility, which shall be the
34 "adjusted extended graduation rate";

35 (c) Adjust the calculation to prevent the rate from being affected
36 by fluctuations in the size of a class of students and to create a
37 reliable measure over time;

1 (d) Calculate the change in the adjusted extended graduation rate
2 for each school year compared to the prior school year; and

3 (e) Translate the change in the adjusted extended graduation rate
4 into a number of students that the change in rate represents, which if
5 a positive number shall be the "adjusted number of students prevented
6 from dropping out."

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.175
8 RCW to read as follows:

9 (1) Annually beginning in the 2013-14 school year, for each
10 adjusted number of students prevented from dropping out as defined
11 under section 2 of this act, a high school shall be eligible for a
12 dropout prevention recognition award of ten thousand five hundred
13 dollars, which amount shall be adjusted annually for inflation after
14 2013-14 using the implicit price deflator. The dropout prevention
15 recognition award represents the annual estimated savings to the
16 taxpayers realized when a student avoids dropping out.

17 (a) Fifty percent of an award under this section shall be allocated
18 to the eligible high school to be used for dropout prevention
19 activities in the school as specified in subsection (2) of this
20 section. The principal of the high school shall determine the use of
21 funds after consultation with parents and certificated and classified
22 staff of the school.

23 (b) Fifty percent of an award under this section shall be allocated
24 to the school district in which the eligible high school is located to
25 be used for dropout prevention activities as specified in subsection
26 (2) of this section in the high school or in other schools in the
27 district.

28 (c) The eligible high school and school district must account for
29 the use of award funds separately from funds received from state
30 funding formulas or other sources. Funds may be expended over a three-
31 year period.

32 (d) The office of the superintendent of public instruction may
33 withhold distribution of award funds under this section to an otherwise
34 eligible high school or school district if the superintendent of public
35 instruction issues a finding that the school or school district has
36 willfully manipulated the graduation rates, for example by expelling,

1 suspending, transferring, or refusing to enroll students at-risk of
2 dropping out of school.

3 (2) High schools and school districts may use dropout prevention
4 recognition award funds to support any of the following dropout
5 prevention and reengagement activities, offered directly by the school
6 or district or under contract with education agencies or community-
7 based organizations including but not limited to educational service
8 districts, workforce development councils, and boys and girls clubs:

9 (a) Use of graduation coaches as defined in section 4 of this act;

10 (b) Opportunity internship activities under RCW 28C.18.164;

11 (c) Dropout reengagement programs provided by community-based
12 organizations or community and technical colleges;

13 (d) Extended school day, extended school year, and tutoring
14 programs for students identified as at-risk of dropping out of school,
15 including instruction to assist these students in meeting graduation
16 requirements in mathematics and science;

17 (e) Outreach and counseling targeted to students identified as at-
18 risk of dropping out of school, or who have dropped out of school, to
19 encourage them to consider learning alternatives such as
20 preapprenticeship programs, skill centers, running start, technical
21 high schools, and other options for completing a high school diploma;

22 (f) Preapprenticeship programs or running start for the trades
23 initiatives under RCW 49.04.190;

24 (g) Mentoring programs for students;

25 (h) Development and use of dropout early warning data systems;

26 (i) Counseling, resource and referral services, and intervention
27 programs to address social, behavioral, and health factors associated
28 with dropping out of school;

29 (j) Implementing programs for in-school suspension or other
30 strategies to avoid excluding middle and high school students from the
31 school whenever possible;

32 (k) Parent engagement activities such as home visits and off-campus
33 parent support group meetings related to dropout prevention and
34 reengagement; and

35 (l) Early learning programs for prekindergarten students.

36 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.175
37 RCW to read as follows:

1 For the purposes of section 3 of this act, a "graduation coach"
2 means a certificated staff person assigned to identify and provide
3 intervention services to students who have dropped out or are at-risk
4 of dropping out of school or of not graduating on time through the
5 following activities:

6 (1) Monitoring and advising on individual student progress toward
7 graduation;

8 (2) Providing student support services and case management;

9 (3) Motivating students to focus on a graduation plan;

10 (4) Encouraging parent and community involvement;

11 (5) Connecting parents and students with appropriate school and
12 community resources;

13 (6) Securing supplemental academic services for students;

14 (7) Implementing schoolwide dropout prevention programs and
15 interventions; and

16 (8) Analyzing data to identify at-risk students.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.175
18 RCW to read as follows:

19 The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
20 regularly inform high schools and school districts about the
21 opportunities under sections 2 through 6 of this act and the activities
22 that have been demonstrated to increase the likelihood of a school
23 receiving a dropout prevention recognition award. The office shall
24 make every effort to keep dropout prevention and reduction of the
25 dropout rate a top priority for school directors, administrators, and
26 teachers.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.175
28 RCW to read as follows:

29 (1) The dropout prevention recognition program account is created
30 in the state treasury.

31 (2) Beginning July 1, 2013, funds must be appropriated from the
32 state general fund each fiscal year and deposited in the dropout
33 prevention recognition program account in an amount equal to one
34 percent of the state appropriation from the state general fund to
35 support basic education under RCW 28A.150.260(3), (4), and (8) for that
36 fiscal year.

1 (3) Moneys in the account may be spent only after appropriation and
2 do not lapse at the end of the fiscal year.

3 (4) Expenditures from the account may be made only to provide
4 dropout prevention recognition program awards under section 3 of this
5 act. The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
6 allocate the award funds to eligible high schools and school districts
7 from the funds appropriated for this purpose.

8 (5) If insufficient funds are available in the account to provide
9 a full award for each eligible high school and school district, the
10 office of the superintendent of public instruction shall prorate the
11 awards across all eligible schools and school districts and notify the
12 governor and the legislature of the amount of the shortfall.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** By July 31, 2012, the office of the
14 superintendent of public instruction shall calculate an adjusted number
15 of students prevented from dropping out as defined under section 2 of
16 this act for each high school in the state and shall notify the high
17 schools of what their dropout prevention recognition award under
18 section 3 of this act would be in the 2012-13 school year if the
19 program were in effect in that year. The office shall notify all high
20 schools that the implementation of the award program in the 2013-14
21 school year is based on performance improvements in the 2012-13 school
22 year.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** The office of the superintendent of public
24 instruction, in consultation with the state board of education, must
25 submit the methodology and preliminary results from the calculation of
26 the adjusted extended graduation rate and the adjusted number of
27 students dropping out as required under section 2 of this act to the
28 education committees of the legislature for review by December 31,
29 2011, and provide the legislature an opportunity to act before the
30 methodology is adopted.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** This act may be known and cited as the
32 dropout prevention act.

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