

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5551**

Chapter 182, Laws of 2009

61st Legislature  
2009 Regular Session

ELEMENTARY STUDENTS--RECESS PERIODS

EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/26/09

Passed by the Senate March 3, 2009  
YEAS 41 NAYS 6

BRAD OWEN

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**President of the Senate**

Passed by the House April 8, 2009  
YEAS 94 NAYS 4

FRANK CHOPP

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**Speaker of the House of Representatives**

Approved April 23, 2009, 2:57 p.m.

CHRISTINE GREGOIRE

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**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Thomas Hoemann, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5551** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

THOMAS HOEMANN

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**Secretary**

FILED

April 24, 2009

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5551**

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Passed Legislature - 2009 Regular Session

**State of Washington                      61st Legislature                      2009 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education (originally sponsored by Senators Franklin, Keiser, Kastama, Marr, Murray, McDermott, Shin, McAuliffe, Fairley, Kline, Pridemore, Oemig, Regala, Kauffman, and Kohl-Welles)

READ FIRST TIME 02/11/09.

1            AN ACT Relating to recess periods for elementary school students;  
2 and creating new sections.

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

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that students at the  
5 elementary level must have the opportunity to participate in daily  
6 recess. The legislature also finds that recess provides children with  
7 unstructured time to engage in physical activity that helps to develop  
8 healthy minds and bodies. As childhood obesity rates rise, it is  
9 important to ensure that children have the time for physical activity.  
10 Insufficient physical activity and excessive calories consumed is well-  
11 known as a critical factor for this alarming increase in overweight and  
12 obese children. As Washington state strives to be the healthiest state  
13 in the nation, we must continue to encourage our children to engage in  
14 physical activity so they can develop a healthy mind and body.

15            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.** (1) The office of the superintendent of  
16 public instruction shall collaborate with the statewide parent-teacher  
17 organization to conduct and report the results of a survey of  
18 Washington elementary schools to determine the current availability of

1 recess for elementary students and the perceptions of the importance of  
2 recess in Washington elementary schools. The survey shall include, but  
3 not be limited to, the following inquiries:

4 (a) How much time does the elementary school devote for recess each  
5 day?

6 (b) Whether the amount of time devoted to recess has decreased or  
7 increased and why?

8 (c) Is recess a structured or unstructured activity at the school?

9 (d) How is recess provided during inclement weather?

10 (e) If recess is part of the scheduled day at your school, may an  
11 individual teacher keep a student from participating in recess for  
12 academic or discipline reasons?

13 (f) Do you believe that recess is a necessary part of the school  
14 day?

15 (2) By December 1, 2009, the responses to the survey shall be  
16 aggregated and reported to the appropriate committees of the  
17 legislature.

Passed by the Senate March 3, 2009.

Passed by the House April 8, 2009.

Approved by the Governor April 23, 2009.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State April 24, 2009.