

E2SHB 1546 - S COMM AMD

By Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education

ADOPTED 04/04/2011

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

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

4 (a) School district boards of directors are encouraged to support
5 the expansion of innovative K-12 school or K-12 program models focused
6 on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) that
7 partner with business, industry, and higher education to increase STEM
8 pathways that use project-based or hands-on learning for elementary,
9 middle, and high school students; and

10 (b) Particularly in schools and communities that are struggling to
11 improve student academic outcomes and close the educational opportunity
12 gap, there is a critical need for innovative models of public education
13 that are tailored to STEM-related programs that implement
14 interdisciplinary instructional delivery methods that are engaging,
15 rigorous, and culturally relevant at each grade level.

16 (2) Therefore, the legislature intends to create a framework for
17 change that includes:

18 (a) Leveraging community assets;

19 (b) Improving staff capacity and effectiveness;

20 (c) Developing family, school, business, industry, STEM
21 professionals, and higher education partnerships in STEM education at
22 all grade levels that can lead to industry certification or dual high
23 school and college credit;

24 (d) Implementing evidence-based practices proven to be effective in
25 reducing demographic disparities in student achievement; and

26 (e) Enabling educators and parents of selected schools and school
27 districts to restructure school operations and develop model STEM
28 programs that will improve student performance and close the
29 educational opportunity gap.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The office of the superintendent of
2 public instruction shall develop a process for school districts to
3 apply to have one or more schools within the district designated as an
4 innovation school focused on science, technology, engineering, and
5 mathematics that actively partners with the community, business,
6 industry, and higher education, and uses project-based or hands-on
7 learning. A group of schools that share common interests, such as
8 geographical location, or that sequentially serve classes of students
9 as they progress through elementary and secondary grades may be
10 designated as an innovation zone. An innovation zone may include all
11 schools within a school district. Consortia of multiple districts may
12 also apply for designation as an innovation zone, to include all
13 schools within the participating districts.

14 (2) Applications requesting designation of innovation schools or
15 innovation zones must be developed by the school district in
16 collaboration with educators, parents, businesses, industries, and the
17 communities of participating schools. School districts must ensure
18 that each school has substantial opportunity to participate in the
19 development of the innovation plan under section 4 of this act.

20 (3) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
21 develop common criteria for reviewing applications and for evaluating
22 the need for waivers of state statutes and administrative rules as
23 provided under section 5 of this act.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) Applications to designate innovation
25 schools and innovation zones must be submitted by school district
26 boards of directors to their respective educational service districts
27 by January 6, 2012, to be implemented beginning in the 2012-13 school
28 year. Innovation plans must be able to be implemented without
29 supplemental state funds.

30 (2) Each educational service district boards of directors shall
31 review applications from within the district using the common criteria
32 developed by the office of the superintendent of public instruction.
33 Each educational service district shall recommend approval by the
34 office of the superintendent of public instruction of no more than
35 three applications from within each educational service district,
36 except that any educational service district with over three hundred
37 fifty thousand full-time equivalent students may recommend approval of

1 no more than ten applications from within the educational service
2 district. At least one of the recommended applications in each
3 educational service district must propose an innovation zone, as long
4 as the application meets the review criteria.

5 (3) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
6 approve the innovation plans of the applicants recommended by the
7 educational service districts. School districts that have applied
8 shall be notified by March 1, 2012, whether they were selected.

9 (4) Designation of innovation schools and innovation zones under
10 this section shall be for a six-year period, beginning in the 2012-13
11 school year, unless the designation is revoked in accordance with
12 section 7 of this act.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) Each application for designation of an
14 innovation school or innovation zone must include a proposed plan that:

15 (a) Defines the scope of the innovation school or innovation zone
16 and describes why designation would enhance the ability of the school
17 or schools to improvement student achievement and close the educational
18 opportunity gap by implementing a program focused on science,
19 technology, engineering, and mathematics themes that partner with the
20 community, business, industry, and higher education and use project-
21 based or hands-on learning;

22 (b) Enumerates specific, research-based activities and innovations
23 to be carried out under the designation;

24 (c) Justifies each request for waiver of state statutes or
25 administrative rules as provided under section 5 of this act;

26 (d) Justifies any requests for waiver of state statutes or
27 administrative rules that are in addition to the waivers authorized
28 under section 5 of this act that are necessary to carry out the
29 proposed innovations;

30 (e) Identifies the improvements in student achievement and the
31 educational opportunity gap that are expected to be accomplished
32 through the innovations;

33 (f) Includes budget plans and anticipated sources of funding,
34 including private grants and contributions, if any;

35 (g) Identifies the technical resources desired, the potential costs
36 of those resources, and the institutions of higher education,

1 educational service districts, businesses, industries, or consultants
2 available to provide such services;

3 (h) Identifies the multiple measures for evaluation and
4 accountability to be used to measure improvement in student
5 achievement, closure in the educational opportunity gap, and the
6 overall performance of the innovation school or innovation zone,
7 including but not limited to assessment scores, graduation rates, and
8 dropout rates;

9 (i) Includes a written statement that school directors and
10 administrators are willing to exempt the designated school or schools
11 from specifically identified local rules, as needed;

12 (j) Includes a written statement that school directors and local
13 bargaining agents will modify those portions of their local agreements
14 as applicable for the designated school or schools;

15 (k) Includes written statements of support from the district's
16 board of directors, the superintendent, the principal and staff of
17 schools seeking designation, each local employee association affected
18 by the proposal, the local parent organization, and statements of
19 support, willingness to participate, or concerns from any interested
20 parent, business, institution of higher education, or community
21 organization; and

22 (1) Commits all parties to work cooperatively during the term of
23 the pilot project.

24 (2) A plan to designate an innovation school or innovation zone
25 must be approved by a majority of the staff assigned to the school or
26 schools participating in the plan.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1)(a) The superintendent of public
28 instruction and the state board of education, each within the scope of
29 their statutory authority, may grant waivers of state statutes and
30 administrative rules for designated innovation schools and innovation
31 zones as follows:

32 (i) Waivers may be granted under RCW 28A.655.180 and 28A.305.140;

33 (ii) Waivers may be granted to permit the commingling of funds
34 appropriated by the legislature on a categorical basis for such
35 programs as, but not limited to, highly capable students, transitional
36 bilingual instruction, and learning assistance; and

1 (iii) Waivers may be granted of other administrative rules that in
2 the opinion of the superintendent of public instruction or the state
3 board of education are necessary to be waived to implement an
4 innovation school or innovation zone.

5 (b) State administrative rules dealing with public health, safety,
6 and civil rights, including accessibility for individuals with
7 disabilities, may not be waived.

8 (2) At the request of a school district, the superintendent of
9 public instruction may petition the United States department of
10 education or other federal agencies to waive federal regulations
11 necessary to implement an innovation school or innovation zone.

12 (3) The state board of education may grant waivers for innovation
13 schools or innovation zones of administrative rules pertaining to
14 calculation of course credits for high school courses.

15 (4) Waivers may be granted under this section for a period not to
16 exceed the duration of the designation of the innovation school or
17 innovation zone.

18 (5) The superintendent of public instruction and the state board of
19 education shall provide an expedited review of requests for waivers for
20 designated innovation schools and innovation zones. Requests may be
21 denied if the superintendent of public instruction or the state board
22 of education conclude that the waiver:

23 (a) Is likely to result in a decrease in academic achievement in
24 the innovation school or innovation zone;

25 (b) Would jeopardize the receipt of state or federal funds that a
26 school district would otherwise be eligible to receive, unless the
27 school district submits a written authorization for the waiver
28 acknowledging that receipt of these funds could be jeopardized; or

29 (c) Would violate state or federal laws or rules that are not
30 authorized to be waived.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** (1) The office of the superintendent of
32 public instruction shall report to the education committees of the
33 legislature on the progress of the designated innovation schools and
34 innovation zones by January 15, 2013, and January 15th of each odd-
35 numbered year thereafter. The report must include recommendations for
36 waiver of state laws and administrative rules in addition to the

1 waivers authorized under section 5 of this act, as identified in
2 innovation plans submitted by school districts.

3 (2) Each innovation school and innovation zone must submit an
4 annual report to the office of the superintendent of public instruction
5 on their progress.

6 (3) The office of the superintendent of public instruction, through
7 the center for the improvement of student learning, must collect and
8 disseminate to all school districts and other interested parties
9 information about the innovation schools and innovation zones.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** After reviewing the annual reports of each
11 innovation school and zone, if the office of the superintendent of
12 public instruction determines that the school or zone is not increasing
13 progress over time as determined by the multiple measures for
14 evaluation and accountability provided in the school or zone plan in
15 accordance with section 4 of this act then the superintendent shall
16 revoke the designation.

17 **Sec. 8.** RCW 28A.305.140 and 1990 c 33 s 267 are each amended to
18 read as follows:

19 (1) The state board of education may grant waivers to school
20 districts from the provisions of RCW 28A.150.200 through 28A.150.220 on
21 the basis that such waiver or waivers are necessary to:

22 (a) Implement successfully a local plan to provide for all students
23 in the district an effective education system that is designed to
24 enhance the educational program for each student. The local plan may
25 include alternative ways to provide effective educational programs for
26 students who experience difficulty with the regular education program;
27 or

28 (b) Implement an innovation school or innovation zone designated
29 under section 3 of this act.

30 (2) The state board shall adopt criteria to evaluate the need for
31 the waiver or waivers.

32 **Sec. 9.** RCW 28A.655.180 and 2009 c 543 s 3 are each amended to
33 read as follows:

34 (1) The state board of education, where appropriate, or the
35 superintendent of public instruction, where appropriate, may grant

1 waivers to districts from the provisions of statutes or rules relating
2 to: The length of the school year; student-to-teacher ratios; and
3 other administrative rules that in the opinion of the state board of
4 education or the opinion of the superintendent of public instruction
5 may need to be waived in order for a district to implement a plan for
6 restructuring its educational program or the educational program of
7 individual schools within the district or to implement an innovation
8 school or innovation zone designated under section 3 of this act.

9 (2) School districts may use the application process in RCW
10 28A.305.140 to apply for the waivers under this section.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** Sections 2 through 7 of this act are each
12 added to chapter 28A.630 RCW.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** This act expires June 30, 2019."

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ADOPTED 04/04/2011

14 On page 1, line 1 of the title, after "to" strike the remainder of
15 the title and insert "authorizing creation of innovation schools and
16 innovation zones focused on science, technology, engineering, and
17 mathematics in school districts; amending RCW 28A.305.140 and
18 28A.655.180; adding new sections to chapter 28A.630 RCW; creating a new
19 section; and providing an expiration date."

EFFECT: Limits the designation of innovation schools and zones to those with a focus on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), that use project-based or hands-on learning.

In addition to collaborating with the educators, parents, and community to develop the application the school district must also collaborate with businesses and industries.

Requires the application to be submitted by January 6, 2012, instead of February 1, 2012.

Requires the application to identify educational expected improvements in the educational opportunity gap in addition to student achievement.

Requires the application to identify multiple measures to measure improvement in student achievement, closure of the educational opportunity gap, and the overall performance of the innovation school or zone, including but not limited to assessment scores, graduation rates, and dropout rates.

Retains no more than 3 applications to be recommended by each ESD except that any ESD with over 350,000 students may recommend no more than 10.

OSPI must approve the plans recommended by the ESDs.

Provides a date of March 1, 2012, for OSPI to notify school districts whether they received the designation.

After reviewing the annual reports of the schools/zones, OSPI must revoke the designation if the multiple measures provided in the plan show that the school/zone is not increasing progress over time.

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