
HOUSE BILL 2669

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2016 Regular Session

By Representatives Riccelli, Harris, Rossetti, Stambaugh, Bergquist, Walkinshaw, Robinson, Peterson, Jinkins, Farrell, Ortiz-Self, Pike, Goodman, Ormsby, and Fey

Read first time 01/18/16. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to physical education instructional requirements
2 for public school students; amending RCW 28A.230.040; adding a new
3 section to chapter 28A.300 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that physical
6 activity has numerous health benefits and that physical education
7 instruction teaches students about the importance of physical
8 activity and establishing patterns of behavior that promote fitness
9 and healthy lifestyles. The legislature also finds that national
10 standards for physical education prescribe specific time-based
11 requirements for physical education that significantly exceed current
12 requirements for students in Washington. The national standards also
13 specify, for students of all ages, that at least fifty percent of the
14 physical education class time should be spent in moderate to vigorous
15 physical activity.

16 (2) Recognizing the emotional well-being and stronger academic
17 achievement benefits of physical activity and physical education
18 instruction, the legislature intends to adopt phased-in increases to
19 the required amount of minutes that students in grades kindergarten
20 through eight spend receiving instruction in physical education, and
21 direct the office of the superintendent of public instruction to

1 collect data that will assist educators and policymakers in
2 developing physical education instructional requirements that better
3 align state requirements with national standards. The legislature
4 also intends to establish a physical education instructional
5 requirements grant program, with a goal of having at least fifty
6 percent of physical education class time be spent in moderate to
7 vigorous physical activity, and a goal of implementing more rigorous
8 physical education requirements for students in grades kindergarten
9 through eight that comply with national standards by the 2020-21
10 school year.

11 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.230.040 and 2006 c 263 s 415 are each amended to
12 read as follows:

13 (1) Every (~~pupil~~) student attending grades (~~one~~) kindergarten
14 through eight of the public schools (~~shall~~) must receive
15 instruction in physical education as prescribed by rule of the
16 superintendent of public instruction: PROVIDED, That individual
17 (~~pupils or~~) students may be excused on account of physical
18 disability(~~(r)~~) or religious belief(~~(, or participation in directed~~
19 athletics)).

20 (2) Beginning with the 2016-17 school year, school districts must
21 annually submit a verification report to the office of the
22 superintendent of public instruction documenting compliance with
23 requirements of this section. Reports required by this section must
24 be developed by the office of the superintendent of public
25 instruction and must require separate verification reporting for each
26 school within a district. The reports also must:

27 (a) Specify the number of students who were excused from the
28 requirements of this section, including the reason for the excuse;

29 (b) Specify the number of minutes of physical education
30 instruction that students received during the reporting period and
31 whether the instruction was provided with a pass or fail grading
32 format;

33 (c) Specify the number of teachers with health and fitness
34 endorsements for each district;

35 (d) Include opportunities for districts to indicate and explain
36 factors lessening their ability to comply with the physical education
37 instructional requirements of this section; and

38 (e) Be summarized by the office of the superintendent of public
39 instruction and submitted to the education committees of the house of

1 representatives and the senate on or before December 1, 2017, and
2 annually thereafter through December 1, 2021. Reports required by
3 this subsection must be submitted in accordance with RCW 43.01.036.

4 (3) For the 2018-19 and 2019-20 school years, the physical
5 education instruction for students in kindergarten and grades one
6 through eight must be provided five days per week or the equivalent
7 of one hundred twenty-five minutes per week for the entire school
8 year.

9 (4) Beginning with the 2020-21 school year, the physical
10 education instruction for students in kindergarten and grades one
11 through eight must be provided five days per week or the equivalent
12 of one hundred fifty minutes per week for the entire school year.

13 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 28A.300
14 RCW to read as follows:

15 (1) Beginning with the 2017-18 school year, and subject to the
16 availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the
17 office of the superintendent of public instruction shall develop a
18 competitive grant program for school districts to increase compliance
19 with the physical education instructional requirements in RCW
20 28A.230.040. In making grant allocations, the office of the
21 superintendent of public instruction must give priority to districts
22 and schools:

23 (a) Demonstrating, through the verification reports required in
24 RCW 28A.230.040, challenges in complying with specified physical
25 education instructional requirements;

26 (b) With high percentages of students who are enrolled in or
27 eligible to participate in the federal free or reduced-price lunch
28 program;

29 (c) Developing a strategic and practical plan for, within two
30 years of receiving a grant allocation, complying with or
31 significantly improving compliance with the physical education
32 instructional requirements in RCW 28A.230.040; and

33 (d) Developing related and supportive partnerships with nonprofit
34 organizations or other entities.

35 (2) On or before December 1, 2018, and annually thereafter
36 through December 1, 2021, the office of the superintendent of public
37 instruction must provide a report to the education committees of the
38 house of representatives and the senate summarizing agency and school
39 district actions related to the grant program established by this

1 section. Reports required by this subsection, which also must include
2 any associated findings and recommendations, must be submitted in
3 accordance with RCW 43.01.036.

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