
HOUSE BILL 1341

State of Washington 65th Legislature 2017 Regular Session

By Representatives Bergquist, McCaslin, Stonier, Muri, and Pollet

Read first time 01/18/17. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to professional certification for teachers and
2 school administrators; amending RCW 28A.410.210, 28A.410.220,
3 28A.410.250, and 28A.410.270; adding new sections to chapter 28A.410
4 RCW; and repealing RCW 28A.410.2212.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.410
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 The professional educator standards board may not require
9 professional certification for school administrators.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.410
11 RCW to read as follows:

12 (1) By September 1, 2017, the professional educator standards
13 board shall adopt rules for professional certification for teachers
14 that meet the requirements of this section.

15 (2) The professional educator standards board must:

16 (a) Require an applicant for the professional teacher
17 certification to earn seventy-five approved professional development
18 credits within five years following the year that the teacher first
19 completes provisional status, and require that teachers at the
20 elementary and secondary levels in STEM-related subjects earn credits

1 focusing on the integration of science, mathematics, technology, and
2 engineering instruction;

3 (b) Provide for a one-time, one-year extension to an applicant
4 who does not meet the requirements of (a) of this subsection that
5 requires the applicant to earn ninety approved professional
6 development credits within six years following the year that the
7 teacher first completes provisional status;

8 (c) Grant professional certification to a teacher who, on the
9 effective date of this section, holds a valid professional
10 certificate issued by the professional educator standards board under
11 state laws and administrative rules in place before the effective
12 date of this section;

13 (d) Define a professional development credit to mean a credit
14 earned by attending sixty minutes of approved professional
15 development activity;

16 (e) Define a professional development activity to mean a method
17 by which a teacher may earn a professional development credit, where:

18 (i) The activity is related to pedagogy, the teacher's
19 endorsement area or an endorsement area the teacher wishes to add,
20 professional responsibilities, mentoring, or working with families
21 and the community, among other things;

22 (ii) The activity is not related to topics required by federal or
23 state laws, or local school district policies, first aid, or
24 athletics;

25 (iii) The teacher earns credit for attending, participating in,
26 teaching, presenting, or preparing for the activity; and

27 (iv) The teacher may be compensated for earning, but was not
28 required to earn, the credit by the school district;

29 (f) Develop and implement a means to approve and track
30 professional development credits earned for approved professional
31 development activities;

32 (g) Develop a process for approving professional development
33 activities and for approving providers of professional development
34 activities. The professional educator standards board may choose to
35 approve activities that are not offered by an approved provider; and

36 (h) Determine and adjust professional certification fees to
37 defray the reasonable, necessary cost of administering this section.

38 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.410.210 and 2009 c 531 s 4 are each amended to
39 read as follows:

1 The purpose of the professional educator standards board is to
2 establish policies and requirements for the preparation and
3 certification of educators that provide standards for competency in
4 professional knowledge and practice in the areas of certification; a
5 foundation of skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary to help
6 students with diverse needs, abilities, cultural experiences, and
7 learning styles meet or exceed the learning goals outlined in RCW
8 28A.150.210; knowledge of research-based practice; and professional
9 development throughout a career. The Washington professional educator
10 standards board shall:

11 (1) Establish policies and practices for the approval of programs
12 of courses, requirements, and other activities leading to educator
13 certification including teacher, school administrator, and
14 educational staff associate certification;

15 (2) Establish policies and practices for the approval of the
16 character of work required to be performed as a condition of entrance
17 to and graduation from any educator preparation program including
18 teacher, school administrator, and educational staff associate
19 preparation program as provided in subsection (1) of this section;

20 (3) Establish a list of accredited institutions of higher
21 education of this and other states whose graduates may be awarded
22 educator certificates as teacher, school administrator, and
23 educational staff associate and establish criteria and enter into
24 agreements with other states to acquire reciprocal approval of
25 educator preparation programs and certification, including teacher
26 certification from the national board for professional teaching
27 standards;

28 (4) Establish policies for approval of nontraditional educator
29 preparation programs;

30 (5) Conduct a review of educator program approval standards at
31 least every five years, beginning in 2006, to reflect research
32 findings and assure continued improvement of preparation programs for
33 teachers, administrators, and school specialized personnel;

34 (6) Specify the types and kinds of educator certificates to be
35 issued and conditions for certification in accordance with subsection
36 (1) of this section, sections 1 and 2 of this act, and RCW
37 28A.410.010;

38 (7) Apply for and receive federal or other funds on behalf of the
39 state for purposes related to the duties of the board;

1 (8) Adopt rules under chapter 34.05 RCW that are necessary for
2 the effective and efficient implementation of this chapter;

3 (9) Maintain data concerning educator preparation programs and
4 their quality, educator certification, educator employment trends and
5 needs, and other data deemed relevant by the board;

6 (10) Serve as an advisory body to the superintendent of public
7 instruction on issues related to educator recruitment, hiring,
8 mentoring and support, professional growth, retention, educator
9 evaluation including but not limited to peer evaluation, and
10 revocation and suspension of licensure;

11 (11) Submit, by October 15th of each even-numbered year, a joint
12 report with the state board of education to the legislative education
13 committees, the governor, and the superintendent of public
14 instruction. The report shall address the progress the boards have
15 made and the obstacles they have encountered, individually and
16 collectively, in the work of achieving the goals set out in RCW
17 28A.150.210;

18 (12) Establish the prospective teacher assessment system for
19 basic skills and subject knowledge that shall be required to obtain
20 residency certification pursuant to RCW 28A.410.220 through
21 28A.410.240; and

22 ~~(13) ((By January 2010, set performance standards and develop,~~
23 ~~pilot, and implement a uniform and externally administered~~
24 ~~professional-level certification assessment based on demonstrated~~
25 ~~teaching skill. In the development of this assessment, consideration~~
26 ~~shall be given to changes in professional certification program~~
27 ~~components such as the culminating seminar; and~~

28 ~~(+14))~~ Conduct meetings under the provisions of chapter 42.30
29 RCW.

30 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28A.410.220 and 2013 c 193 s 2 are each amended to
31 read as follows:

32 (1)(a) Beginning not later than September 1, 2001, the Washington
33 professional educator standards board shall make available and pilot
34 a means of assessing an applicant's knowledge in the basic skills.
35 For the purposes of this section, "basic skills" means the subjects
36 of at least reading, writing, and mathematics. Beginning September 1,
37 2002, except as provided in (c) and (d) of this subsection and
38 subsection ~~((+4))~~ (3) of this section, passing this assessment shall
39 be required for admission to approved teacher preparation programs

1 and for persons from out-of-state applying for a Washington state
2 residency teaching certificate.

3 (b) On an individual student basis, approved teacher preparation
4 programs may admit into their programs a candidate who has not
5 achieved the minimum basic skills assessment score established by the
6 Washington professional educator standards board. Individuals so
7 admitted may not receive residency certification without passing the
8 basic skills assessment under this section.

9 (c) The Washington professional educator standards board may
10 establish criteria to ensure that persons from out-of-state who are
11 applying for residency certification and persons applying to master's
12 degree level teacher preparation programs can demonstrate to the
13 board's satisfaction that they have the requisite basic skills based
14 upon having completed another basic skills assessment acceptable to
15 the Washington professional educator standards board or by some other
16 alternative approved by the Washington professional educator
17 standards board.

18 (d) The Washington professional educator standards board may
19 identify and accept other tests and test scores as long as the tests
20 are comparable in rigor to the basic skills assessment and candidates
21 meet or exceed the basic skills requirements established by the
22 board. The board must set the acceptable score for admission to
23 teacher certification programs at no lower than the average national
24 scores for the SAT or ACT.

25 ~~(2) ((The Washington professional educator standards board shall
26 set performance standards and develop, pilot, and implement a uniform
27 and externally administered professional-level certification
28 assessment based on demonstrated teaching skill. In the development
29 of this assessment, consideration shall be given to changes in
30 professional certification program components such as the culminating
31 seminar.~~

32 ~~(3) Beginning not later than September 1, 2002,))~~ The Washington
33 professional educator standards board shall provide for ~~((the initial
34 piloting and implementation of))~~ a means of assessing an applicant's
35 knowledge in the subjects for which the applicant has applied for an
36 endorsement to his or her residency ~~((or professional))~~ teaching
37 certificate. The assessment of subject knowledge shall not include
38 instructional methodology. ~~((Beginning September 1, 2005,))~~ Passing
39 this assessment ~~((shall be))~~ is required to receive an endorsement
40 for certification purposes.

1 (~~(4)~~) (3) The Washington professional educator standards board
2 may permit exceptions from the assessment requirements under
3 subsections ~~(1)(~~7~~)~~ and ~~(2)(~~7~~ and ~~3~~)~~ of this section on a case-
4 by-case basis.

5 (~~(5)~~) (4) The Washington professional educator standards board
6 shall provide for reasonable accommodations for individuals who are
7 required to take the assessments in subsection ~~(1)(~~7~~)~~ or ~~(2)(~~7~~ or~~
8 ~~(3))~~ of this section if the individuals have learning or other
9 disabilities.

10 (~~(6)~~) (5) With the exception of applicants exempt from the
11 requirements of subsections ~~(1)(~~7~~)~~ and ~~(2)(~~7~~ and ~~3~~)~~ of this
12 section, an applicant must achieve a minimum assessment score or
13 scores established by the Washington professional educator standards
14 board on each of the assessments under subsections ~~(1)(~~7~~)~~ and ~~(2)~~
15 ~~(~~7~~ and ~~3~~)~~ of this section.

16 (~~(7)~~) (6) The Washington professional educator standards board
17 and superintendent of public instruction, as determined by the
18 Washington professional educator standards board, may contract with
19 one or more third parties for:

20 (a) The development, purchase, administration, scoring, and
21 reporting of scores of the assessments established by the Washington
22 professional educator standards board under subsections ~~(1)(~~7~~)~~ and
23 ~~(2)(~~7~~ and ~~3~~)~~ of this section;

24 (b) Related clerical and administrative activities; or

25 (c) Any combination of the purposes in this subsection.

26 (~~(8)~~) (7) Applicants for admission to a Washington teacher
27 preparation program and applicants for residency (~~and professional~~)
28 certificates who are required to successfully complete one or more of
29 the assessments under subsections ~~(1)(~~7~~)~~ and ~~(2)(~~7~~ and ~~3~~)~~ of
30 this section, and who are charged a fee for the assessment by a third
31 party contracted with under subsection ~~(~~7~~)~~ (6) of this section,
32 shall pay the fee charged by the contractor directly to the
33 contractor. Such fees shall be reasonably related to the actual costs
34 of the contractor in providing the assessment.

35 (~~(9)~~) (8) The superintendent of public instruction is
36 responsible for supervision and providing support services to
37 administer this section.

38 (~~(10)~~) (9) The Washington professional educator standards board
39 shall collaboratively select or develop and implement the assessments
40 and minimum assessment scores required under this section with the

1 superintendent of public instruction and shall provide opportunities
2 for representatives of other interested educational organizations to
3 participate in the selection or development and implementation of
4 such assessments in a manner deemed appropriate by the Washington
5 professional educator standards board.

6 ~~((+11+))~~ (10) The Washington professional educator standards
7 board shall adopt rules under chapter 34.05 RCW that are reasonably
8 necessary for the effective and efficient implementation of this
9 section.

10 **Sec. 5.** RCW 28A.410.250 and 2016 c 233 s 4 are each amended to
11 read as follows:

12 The agency responsible for educator certification shall adopt
13 rules for professional certification that:

14 (1) Provide maximum program choice for applicants, promote
15 portability among programs, and promote maximum efficiency for
16 applicants in attaining professional certification;

17 (2) Require professional certification no earlier than the fifth
18 year following the year that the teacher first completes provisional
19 status, with an automatic two-year extension upon enrollment;

20 (3) Meet the requirements described in section 2 of this act for
21 professional certification for teachers;

22 (4) Grant professional certification to any teacher who attains
23 certification from the national board for professional teaching
24 standards;

25 ~~((+4+))~~ (5) Permit any teacher currently enrolled in or
26 participating in a program leading to professional certification to
27 continue the program under administrative rules in place when the
28 teacher began the program;

29 ~~((+5+))~~ (6) Provide criteria for the approval of educational
30 service districts ~~(, beginning no later than August 31, 2007,)~~ to
31 offer programs leading to professional educator staff associate
32 certification. The rules shall be written to encourage institutions
33 of higher education and educational service districts to partner with
34 local school districts or consortia of school districts, as
35 appropriate, to provide instruction for ~~((teachers))~~ educational
36 staff associates seeking professional certification;

37 ~~((+6+))~~ (7) Encourage institutions of higher education to offer
38 professional certificate coursework as continuing education credit
39 hours. This shall not prevent an institution of higher education from

1 providing the option of including the professional certification
2 requirements as part of a master's degree program;

3 ~~((7))~~ (8) Provide criteria for a liaison relationship between
4 approved programs and school districts in which applicants are
5 employed;

6 ~~((8))~~ (9) Identify an expedited professional certification
7 process for out-of-state teachers who have five years or more of
8 successful teaching experience, including a method to determine the
9 comparability of rigor between the Washington professional
10 certification process and the advanced level teacher certification
11 process of other states. A professional certificate must be issued to
12 these experienced out-of-state teachers if the teacher holds: (a) A
13 valid teaching certificate issued by the national board for
14 professional teaching standards; or (b) an advanced level teacher
15 certificate from another state that has been determined to be
16 comparable to the Washington professional certificate; and

17 ~~((9))~~ (10) Identify an evaluation process of approved programs
18 that includes a review of the program coursework and applicant
19 coursework load requirements, linkages of programs to individual
20 teacher professional growth plans, linkages to school district and
21 school improvement plans, and, to the extent possible, linkages to
22 school district professional enrichment and growth programs for
23 teachers, where such programs are in place in school districts. The
24 agency shall provide a preliminary report on the evaluation process
25 to the senate and house of representatives committees on education
26 policy by November 1, 2005. The board shall identify:

27 (a) A process for awarding conditional approval of a program that
28 shall include annual evaluations of the program until the program is
29 awarded full approval;

30 (b) A less intensive evaluation cycle every three years once a
31 program receives full approval unless the responsible agency has
32 reason to intensify the evaluation;

33 (c) A method for investigating programs that have received
34 numerous complaints from students enrolled in the program and from
35 those recently completing the program;

36 (d) A method for investigating programs at the reasonable
37 discretion of the agency; and

38 (e) A method for using, in the evaluation, both program completer
39 satisfaction responses and data on the impact of educators who have
40 obtained professional certification on student work and achievement.

1 **Sec. 6.** RCW 28A.410.270 and 2009 c 548 s 402 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 (1)(a) (~~By January 1, 2010,~~) The professional educator
4 standards board shall adopt a set of articulated teacher knowledge,
5 skill, and performance standards for effective teaching that are
6 evidence-based, measurable, meaningful, and documented in high
7 quality research as being associated with improved student learning.
8 The standards shall be calibrated for each level (~~of certification~~
9 ~~and~~) along the entire career continuum. In developing the standards,
10 the board shall, to the extent possible, incorporate standards for
11 cultural competency along the entire continuum. For the purposes of
12 this subsection, "cultural competency" includes knowledge of student
13 cultural histories and contexts, as well as family norms and values
14 in different cultures; knowledge and skills in accessing community
15 resources and community and parent outreach; and skills in adapting
16 instruction to students' experiences and identifying cultural
17 contexts for individual students.

18 (b) (~~By January 1, 2010,~~) The professional educator standards
19 board shall adopt a definition of master teacher, with a comparable
20 level of increased competency between professional certification
21 level and master level as between professional certification level
22 and national board certification. Within the definition established
23 by the professional educator standards board, teachers certified
24 through the national board for professional teaching standards shall
25 be considered master teachers.

26 (2) (~~By January 1, 2010, the professional educator standards~~
27 ~~board shall submit to the governor and the education and fiscal~~
28 ~~committees of the legislature:~~

29 ~~(a) An update on the status of implementation of the professional~~
30 ~~certificate external and uniform assessment authorized in RCW~~
31 ~~28A.410.210;~~

32 ~~(b) A proposal for a uniform, statewide, valid, and reliable~~
33 ~~classroom-based means of evaluating teacher effectiveness as a~~
34 ~~culminating measure at the preservice level that is to be used during~~
35 ~~the student-teaching field experience. This assessment shall include~~
36 ~~multiple measures of teacher performance in classrooms, evidence of~~
37 ~~positive impact on student learning, and shall include review of~~
38 ~~artifacts, such as use of a variety of assessment and instructional~~
39 ~~strategies, and student work. The proposal shall establish a timeline~~
40 ~~for when the assessment will be required for successful completion of~~

1 ~~a Washington state approved teacher preparation program. The timeline~~
2 ~~shall take into account the capacity of the K-12 education and higher~~
3 ~~education systems to accommodate the new assessment. The proposal and~~
4 ~~timeline shall also address how the assessment will be included in~~
5 ~~state reported data on preparation program quality; and~~

6 ~~(c) A recommendation on the length of time that a residency~~
7 ~~certificate issued to a teacher is valid and within what time period~~
8 ~~a teacher must meet the minimum level of performance for and receive~~
9 ~~a professional certificate in order to continue being certified as a~~
10 ~~teacher. In developing this recommendation, the professional educator~~
11 ~~standards board shall consult with interested stakeholders including~~
12 ~~the Washington education association, the Washington association of~~
13 ~~school administrators, association of Washington school principals,~~
14 ~~and the Washington state school directors' association and shall~~
15 ~~include with its recommendation a description of each stakeholder's~~
16 ~~comments on the recommendation.~~

17 ~~(3) The update and proposal in subsection (2)(a) and (b) of this~~
18 ~~section shall include, at a minimum, descriptions of:~~

19 ~~(a) Estimated costs and statutory authority needed for further~~
20 ~~development and implementation of these assessments;~~

21 ~~(b) A common and standardized rubric for determining whether a~~
22 ~~teacher meets the minimum level of performance of the assessments;~~
23 ~~and~~

24 ~~(c) Administration and management of the assessments.~~

25 ~~(4) To the extent that funds are appropriated for this purpose~~
26 ~~and in accordance with the timeline established in subsection (2) of~~
27 ~~this section, recognizing the capacity limitations of the education~~
28 ~~systems, the professional educator standards board shall develop the~~
29 ~~system and process as established in subsections (1), (2), and (3) of~~
30 ~~this section throughout the remainder of the 2010-11 and 2011-12~~
31 ~~school years.~~

32 ~~(5) Beginning no earlier than September 1, 2011, award of a~~
33 ~~professional certificate shall be based on a minimum of two years of~~
34 ~~successful teaching experience as defined by the board and on the~~
35 ~~results of the evaluation authorized under RCW 28A.410.210(14) and~~
36 ~~under this section, and may not require candidates to enroll in a~~
37 ~~professional certification program.~~

38 ~~(6) Beginning July 1, 2011,)) Educator preparation programs~~
39 ~~approved to offer the residency teaching certificate shall be~~
40 ~~required to demonstrate how the program produces effective teachers~~

1 as evidenced by the measures established under this section and other
2 criteria established by the professional educator standards board.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** RCW 28A.410.2212 (Washington professional
4 educator standards board—Certificate renewal rules for teachers in
5 STEM-related subjects) and 2011 2nd sp.s. c 2 s 3 are each repealed.

--- END ---