
ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL 1131

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2021 Regular Session

By Representatives Rude and Callan; by request of State Board of Education

Prefiled 01/08/21.

1 AN ACT Relating to the emergency waiver of instructional hours
2 and days at private schools; amending RCW 28A.195.040 and
3 28A.195.010; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.195.040 and 1990 c 33 s 177 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1) The state board of education shall promulgate rules and
8 regulations for the enforcement of RCW 28A.195.010 through
9 28A.195.040, 28A.225.010, and 28A.305.130, including a provision
10 which denies approval to any school engaging in a policy of racial
11 segregation or discrimination.

12 (2) The state board of education has the authority to make rules
13 and regulations that establish the terms and conditions for allowing
14 private schools to maintain their approval status when private
15 schools are unable to fulfill the requirement of a full school year
16 of one hundred eighty days or the annual average total instructional
17 hour offering imposed by RCW 28A.195.010 due to a significant
18 disruption resulting from an emergency.

19 (3) For purposes of this section, "emergency" has the same
20 meaning as "emergency or disaster" in RCW 38.52.010. "Emergency" may

1 also include a national declaration of emergency by an authorized
2 federal official.

3 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.195.010 and 2019 c 252 s 108 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

5 The legislature hereby recognizes that private schools should be
6 subject only to those minimum state controls necessary to insure the
7 health and safety of all the students in the state and to insure a
8 sufficient basic education to meet usual graduation requirements. The
9 state, any agency or official thereof, shall not restrict or dictate
10 any specific educational or other programs for private schools except
11 as hereinafter in this section provided.

12 The administrative or executive authority of private schools or
13 private school districts shall file each year with the state board of
14 education a statement certifying that the minimum requirements
15 hereinafter set forth are being met, noting any deviations. The state
16 board of education may request clarification or additional
17 information. After review of the statement, the state board of
18 education will notify schools or school districts of any concerns,
19 deficiencies, and deviations which must be corrected. If there are
20 any unresolved concerns, deficiencies, or deviations, the school or
21 school district may request or the state board of education on its
22 own initiative may grant provisional status for one year in order
23 that the school or school district may take action to meet the
24 requirements. The state board of education shall not require private
25 school students to meet the student learning goals, to learn the
26 state learning standards, or to be assessed pursuant to RCW
27 28A.655.070. However, private schools may choose, on a voluntary
28 basis, to have their students learn these state learning standards or
29 take the assessments. Minimum requirements shall be as follows:

30 (1) (~~The~~) Except as provided in RCW 28A.195.040, the minimum
31 school year for instructional purposes shall consist of no less than
32 one hundred eighty school days or the equivalent in annual minimum
33 instructional hour offerings, with a school-wide annual average total
34 instructional hour offering of one thousand hours for students
35 enrolled in grades one through twelve, and at least four hundred
36 fifty hours for students enrolled in kindergarten.

37 (2) The school day shall be the same as defined in RCW
38 28A.150.203.

1 (3) All classroom teachers shall hold appropriate Washington
2 state certification except as follows:

3 (a) Teachers for religious courses or courses for which no
4 counterpart exists in public schools shall not be required to obtain
5 a state certificate to teach those courses.

6 (b) In exceptional cases, people of unusual competence but
7 without certification may teach students so long as a certified
8 person exercises general supervision. Annual written statements shall
9 be submitted to the state board of education reporting and explaining
10 such circumstances.

11 (4) An approved private school may operate an extension program
12 for parents, guardians, or persons having legal custody of a child to
13 teach children in their custody. The extension program shall require
14 at a minimum that:

15 (a) The parent, guardian, or custodian be under the supervision
16 of an employee of the approved private school who is certificated
17 under chapter 28A.410 RCW;

18 (b) The planning by the certificated person and the parent,
19 guardian, or person having legal custody include objectives
20 consistent with this subsection and subsections (1), (2), (5), (6),
21 and (7) of this section;

22 (c) The certificated person spend a minimum average each month of
23 one contact hour per week with each student under his or her
24 supervision who is enrolled in the approved private school extension
25 program;

26 (d) Each student's progress be evaluated by the certificated
27 person; and

28 (e) The certificated employee shall not supervise more than
29 thirty students enrolled in the approved private school's extension
30 program.

31 (5) Appropriate measures shall be taken to safeguard all
32 permanent records against loss or damage.

33 (6) The physical facilities of the school or district shall be
34 adequate to meet the program offered by the school or district:
35 PROVIDED, That each school building shall meet reasonable health and
36 fire safety requirements. A residential dwelling of the parent,
37 guardian, or custodian shall be deemed to be an adequate physical
38 facility when a parent, guardian, or person having legal custody is
39 instructing his or her child under subsection (4) of this section.

1 (7) Private school curriculum shall include instruction of the
2 basic skills of occupational education, science, mathematics,
3 language, social studies, history, health, reading, writing,
4 spelling, and the development of appreciation of art and music, all
5 in sufficient units for meeting state board of education graduation
6 requirements.

7 (8) Each school or school district shall be required to maintain
8 up-to-date policy statements related to the administration and
9 operation of the school or school district.

10 All decisions of policy, philosophy, selection of books, teaching
11 material, curriculum, except as in subsection (7) of this section
12 provided, school rules and administration, or other matters not
13 specifically referred to in this section, shall be the responsibility
14 of the administration and administrators of the particular private
15 school involved.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate
17 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of
18 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes
19 effect immediately.

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