
ENGROSSED SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1365

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2021 Regular Session

By House Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Gregerson, Stonier, Ramos, Callan, Simmons, J. Johnson, Taylor, Lovick, Leavitt, Ortiz-Self, Berg, Fitzgibbon, Ryu, Morgan, Wicks, Tharinger, Duerr, Ormsby, Hansen, Berry, Dolan, Valdez, Cody, Bronoske, Senn, Bateman, Bergquist, Kloba, Riccelli, Davis, Macri, Ramel, Harris-Talley, Pollet, and Sells)

READ FIRST TIME 02/22/21.

1 AN ACT Relating to procuring and supporting appropriate computers
2 and devices for public school students and instructional staff;
3 amending RCW 28A.650.010; adding new sections to chapter 28A.650 RCW;
4 creating new sections; and repealing RCW 28A.650.005, 28A.650.015,
5 28A.650.020, 28A.650.025, 28A.650.030, 28A.650.900, and 28A.650.901.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature recognizes that the
8 COVID-19 pandemic exposed the importance of internet-accessible
9 learning devices for the ability of students to receive a modern
10 education. When Washington schools closed in March 2020, schools and
11 school districts shifted quickly to offering education in an online
12 environment. Teachers adapted their lessons for videoconferencing
13 platforms and arranged for students to submit homework via email.
14 However, limited opportunities for in-person instruction amplified
15 digital deserts and disparities among students that are likely to
16 continue to grow for the foreseeable future.

17 (2) The legislature finds that students from low-income families
18 face disproportionate barriers to accessing learning over the
19 internet in their homes, partly because they do not have internet-
20 accessible devices appropriate for learning. The legislature also
21 recognizes that accessing learning over the internet requires more

1 than just an internet-accessible device appropriate for learning. For
2 students and their families to be truly connected, they need the
3 digital literacy, digital skills, and digital support to use
4 internet-accessible devices and to navigate the web in support of
5 student learning.

6 (3) Therefore, the purposes of this act are to: (a) Accelerate
7 student access to learning devices and related goods and services;
8 (b) expand training programs and technical assistance on using
9 technology to support student learning; and (c) build the capacity of
10 schools and districts to support digital navigation services for
11 students and their families.

12 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.650.010 and 2017 c 90 s 1 are each amended to
13 read as follows:

14 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in
15 this section apply throughout this chapter.

16 (1) "Digital citizenship" includes the norms of appropriate,
17 responsible, and healthy behavior related to current technology use,
18 including digital and media literacy, ethics, etiquette, and
19 security. The term also includes the ability to access, analyze,
20 evaluate, develop, produce, and interpret media, as well as internet
21 safety and cyberbullying prevention and response.

22 (~~(2) ("Education technology" or "technology" means the effective
23 use of electronic and optical tools, including telephones, and
24 electronic and optical pathways in helping students learn.~~

25 ~~(3) "Network" means integrated linking of education technology
26 systems in schools for transmission of voice, data, video, or
27 imaging, or a combination of these.))~~ "Learning device" means an
28 internet-accessible computer, tablet, or other device, with an
29 appropriate operating system, software applications, and data
30 security, that can be used to access curricula, educational web
31 applications and websites, and learning management systems, and with
32 telecommunications capabilities sufficient for videoconferencing.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.650
34 RCW to read as follows:

35 (1) Each educational service district shall provide technology
36 consultation, procurement, and training, in consultation with
37 teacher-librarians through school library information and technology
38 programs as defined in RCW 28A.320.240, and as described in this

1 section. An educational service district may meet the requirements of
2 this section in cooperation with one or more other educational
3 service districts.

4 (2) Technology consultation involves providing technical
5 assistance and guidance to local school districts related to
6 technology needs and financing, and may include consultation with
7 other entities.

8 (3)(a) Technology procurement involves negotiating for local
9 school district purchasing and leasing of learning devices and
10 peripheral devices, learning management systems, cybersecurity
11 protection, device insurance, and other technology-related goods and
12 services.

13 (b) When selecting goods and services for procurement, the
14 educational service district must consider a variety of student
15 needs, as well as accessibility, age appropriateness, privacy and
16 security, data storage and transfer capacity, and telecommunications
17 capability.

18 (c) Technology procurement may be performed in consultation and
19 contract with the department of enterprise services under chapter
20 39.26 RCW.

21 (4) Technology training involves developing and offering direct
22 services to local school districts related to staff development and
23 capacity building to provide digital navigation services to students
24 and their families. The educational service districts must seek to
25 consult teacher-librarians and other relevant information technology
26 programs to determine where there is a need and focus for this
27 training. These services may be provided on a fee-for-service basis.

28 (5) Technology consultation, procurement, and training under this
29 section must be provided to local public schools, as defined in RCW
30 28A.150.010, the Washington center for deaf and hard of hearing
31 youth, and the school for the blind, in addition to local school
32 districts. Technology training under this section may also be offered
33 to child care providers.

34 (6) The educational service districts must cooperate with the
35 office of the superintendent of public instruction to provide the
36 data required under section 5(1) of this act.

37 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.650
38 RCW to read as follows:

1 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
2 specific purpose, the office of the superintendent of public
3 instruction shall develop and administer a technology grant program,
4 as described in this section, to advance the following objectives:

5 (a) Attain a universal 1:1 student to learning device ratio;

6 (b) Expand technical support and training of school and district
7 staff in using technology to support student learning; and

8 (c) Develop district-based and school-based capacity to assist
9 students and their families in accessing and using technology to
10 support student learning.

11 (2) The following entities, individually or in cooperation, may
12 apply to the office of the superintendent of public instruction for a
13 grant under this section: A public school as defined in RCW
14 28A.150.010; a school district; an educational service district; the
15 Washington center for deaf and hard of hearing youth; and the state
16 school for the blind.

17 (3) At a minimum, grant applications must include:

18 (a) The applicant's technology plan for accomplishing the goals
19 of the grant program, the applicant's student demographics, including
20 the percent of students eligible for free and reduced-price meals,
21 and any specialized technology needs of the applicant's students,
22 such as students with disabilities and English learners who may need
23 adaptive or assistive technologies; and

24 (b) A description of preexisting programs and funding sources
25 used by the applicant to provide learning devices to students, staff,
26 or both.

27 (4) When ranking and selecting applicants, the office of the
28 superintendent of public instruction must prioritize both of the
29 following:

30 (a) Applicants without preexisting programs to provide a device
31 for every student and that have 30 percent or more students eligible
32 for free and reduced-price meals; and

33 (b) Applicants with students who have specialized technology
34 needs.

35 (5) When selecting applicants, the office of the superintendent
36 of public instruction must, to the extent possible, select applicants
37 representing geographic diversity.

38 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.650
39 RCW to read as follows:

1 (1) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
2 collect and analyze the following data:

3 (a) Demographic, distribution, and other data related to
4 technology initiatives; and

5 (b) Biennial survey data on school and school district progress
6 to accomplish the objectives listed in section 4(1) of this act.

7 (2) By November 1, 2022, and by November 1st every even year
8 thereafter, the office of the superintendent of public instruction
9 shall provide a report to the appropriate policy and fiscal
10 committees of the legislature, in accordance with RCW 43.01.036,
11 with:

12 (a) A summary of the technology initiatives data collected under
13 subsection (1) of this section;

14 (b) The status of the state's progress in accomplishing the
15 following: (i) Accelerate student access to learning devices and
16 related goods and services; (ii) expand training programs and
17 technical assistance on using technology to support student learning;
18 and (iii) build the capacity of schools and districts to support
19 digital navigation services for students and their families;

20 (c) Recommendations for improving the administration and
21 oversight of the technology initiatives; and

22 (d) An update on innovative and collaborative activities
23 occurring in communities across the state to support widespread
24 public technology literacy and fluency, as well as student universal
25 access to learning devices.

26 (3) For the purposes of this section, "technology initiatives"
27 means the technology grants awarded by the office of the
28 superintendent of public instruction under section 4 of this act, and
29 the provision of technology consultation, procurement, and training
30 by educational service districts under section 3 of this act.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The following acts or parts of acts are
32 each repealed:

33 (1) RCW 28A.650.005 (Findings—Intent) and 1993 c 336 s 701;

34 (2) RCW 28A.650.015 (Education technology plan—Educational
35 technology advisory committee) and 2011 1st sp.s. c 43 s 725, 2011
36 1st sp.s. c 11 s 133, 2009 c 556 s 17, 2006 c 263 s 917, 1995 c 335 s
37 507, 1994 c 245 s 2, & 1993 c 336 s 703;

- 1 (3) RCW 28A.650.020 (Regional educational technology support
2 centers—Advisory councils) and 1993 c 336 s 705;
3 (4) RCW 28A.650.025 (Distribution of funds for regional
4 educational technology support centers) and 1993 c 336 s 706;
5 (5) RCW 28A.650.030 (Distribution of funds to expand the
6 education statewide network) and 1993 c 336 s 707;
7 (6) RCW 28A.650.900 (Findings—Intent—Part headings not law—1993
8 c 336); and
9 (7) RCW 28A.650.901 (Findings—1993 c 336).

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** If specific funding for the purposes of
11 this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not
12 provided by June 30, 2021, in the omnibus appropriations act, this
13 act is null and void.

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