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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5030**

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**State of Washington**

**67th Legislature**

**2021 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education (originally sponsored by Senators Mullet, Wellman, Conway, Darneille, Hasegawa, Kuderer, Llias, Lovelett, Nguyen, Rivers, Salomon, and Wilson, C.)

READ FIRST TIME 01/21/21.

1 AN ACT Relating to developing comprehensive school counseling  
2 programs; adding new sections to chapter 28A.320 RCW; creating a new  
3 section; and providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature recognizes that  
6 certificated school counselors are uniquely qualified to address the  
7 developmental needs of all students through a comprehensive school  
8 counseling program. School counselors play a critical role in  
9 maximizing K-12 student outcomes, including those related to  
10 attendance, academic achievement, high school graduation,  
11 postsecondary readiness, and social-emotional development. The  
12 legislature finds that school counselors play an especially unique  
13 role in the lives of students from underserved backgrounds,  
14 particularly students of color, students with disabilities, English  
15 language learners, and students living in poverty, who, according to  
16 research, are more likely to seek out their school counselor for  
17 academic, mental health, or postsecondary planning needs.

18 (2) The legislature also recognizes research indicating that  
19 lower counselor to student ratios enable counselors to work more  
20 closely with students and address their unique needs, and that school  
21 counselors should be able to use their time to provide direct and

1 indirect services to students as described in a comprehensive school  
2 counseling program grounded in research.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.320  
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 By the beginning of the 2022-23 school year each school district  
6 shall develop and implement a written plan for a comprehensive school  
7 counseling program that is based on regularly updated standards  
8 developed by a national organization representing school counselors.  
9 The written plan must:

10 (1) Establish a comprehensive school counseling program that uses  
11 state and nationally recognized counselor frameworks and is  
12 systemically aligned to state learning standards;

13 (2) Provide a process for identifying student needs through a  
14 multilevel school data review and analysis that includes, at a  
15 minimum, use-of-time data, program results data, and data regarding  
16 communication with administrators, parents, students, and  
17 stakeholders;

18 (3) Explain how direct and indirect services will be delivered  
19 through the comprehensive school counseling program; and

20 (4) Establish an annual review and assessment process for the  
21 comprehensive school counseling program that includes building  
22 administrators and stakeholders.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.320  
24 RCW to read as follows:

25 (1) The comprehensive school counseling program plan required  
26 under section 2 of this act must be implemented by school counselors  
27 to guide students in academic pursuits, career planning, and social  
28 and emotional learning.

29 (2) When implementing the plan, school counselors shall spend at  
30 least 80 percent of their work time providing direct and indirect  
31 services to benefit students, as aligned with standards developed by  
32 a national organization representing school counselors. Tasks such as  
33 coordinating and monitoring student testing, supervising students at  
34 lunch and recess, and assuming the duties of other noncounseling  
35 staff are not direct or indirect services.

36 (3) For purposes of this section:

37 (a) "Direct services" are in-person interactions between school  
38 counselors and students that help students improve achievement,

1 attendance, and discipline. Examples include, but are not limited to,  
2 instruction, appraisal, advisement, and counseling.

3 (b) "Indirect services" are provided on behalf of students as a  
4 result of the school counselor's interactions with others, which  
5 allow school counselors to enhance student achievement and promote  
6 equity and access for all students. Examples include, but are not  
7 limited to, collaboration, consultation, and referrals.

8 (c) "Work time" means the portion of an employee's contracted  
9 hours for which they are contracted to perform the duties of a school  
10 counselor.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.320  
12 RCW to read as follows:

13 (1) By December 1, 2021, the office of the superintendent of  
14 public instruction must develop and distribute to school districts  
15 policy guidance regarding implementation of sections 2 and 3 of this  
16 act, developed in collaboration with a nonprofit organization that  
17 represents school directors.

18 (2) Prior to the 2022-23 school year, each school district board  
19 of directors must, within existing funds, develop a transition plan  
20 for developing and implementing a comprehensive school counseling  
21 program plan.

22 (3) This section expires June 30, 2023.

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