
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5147

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2021 Regular Session

By Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education (originally sponsored by Senators Hawkins, Wellman, Billig, Dhingra, Frockt, Hasegawa, Kuderer, Muzzall, Nobles, Rivers, Saldaña, and Wilson, C.)

READ FIRST TIME 01/28/21.

1 AN ACT Relating to addressing learning loss by exploring
2 alternative school calendars; adding a new section to chapter 28A.630
3 RCW; creating a new section; and providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The COVID-19 pandemic has created a unique
6 set of challenges and circumstances that have tested the K-12
7 education system. Due to reduced instructional time, educational
8 inequities, and the inability to access technology and educational
9 services, many students have suffered learning loss and a disruption
10 to their educational experience. As a result, the legislature finds
11 that a school calendar other than that traditionally used by
12 Washington schools may help students to obtain the knowledge and
13 skills needed to prevent negative educational outcomes. By using an
14 alternative calendar, selected school districts will be better able
15 to address the negative outcomes of the pandemic in a flexible and
16 locally responsive manner.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.630
18 RCW to read as follows:

19 (1) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
20 select a limited number of school districts for a program to

1 implement a year-round school calendar. In doing so, the office of
2 the superintendent of public instruction may select up to 30 school
3 districts to provide a minimum of 180 school days throughout the
4 entire school year.

5 (2) School districts selected under the program shall provide a
6 year-round school year instructional schedule beginning in the
7 2022-23 school year and through the 2025-26 school year in all
8 schools in their district.

9 (3)(a) Each school district participating in the alternative
10 school year calendar program must have:

11 (i) Had enrollment of 50 percent or more students eligible for
12 free or reduced-price meals in the 2019-20 school year or used the
13 community eligibility provision under section 104(a) of the federal
14 healthy, hunger-free kids act of 2010 (P.L. 111-296) to provide
15 universal meals in all district schools during the 2019-20 school
16 year; and

17 (ii) A minimum district-wide enrollment of at least 500 students
18 and a maximum district-wide enrollment of 10,000 students in the
19 2019-20 school year.

20 (b) In selecting districts for participation in the program, the
21 office of the superintendent of public instruction shall select
22 districts on a first-come, first-served basis based on the
23 application date of eligible districts. The office of the
24 superintendent of public instruction may select up to 15 school
25 districts located west of the crest of the Cascade mountains and up
26 to 15 school districts located east of the crest of the Cascade
27 mountains.

28 (4) In addition to other program requirements established by the
29 office of the superintendent of public instruction, school districts
30 participating in the program shall adopt a school calendar that
31 provides instructional days in at least 11 months of the year and in
32 which breaks in scheduled instructional days for students are limited
33 to a maximum of four consecutive weeks throughout the school year.

34 (5) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
35 specific purpose, the office of the superintendent of public
36 instruction shall allocate funds to each participating school
37 district in an amount equal to the school district's base allocation
38 per full-time equivalent student, multiplied by the school's annual
39 average full-time equivalent student enrollment, multiplied by 0.1.

1 (6) By December 31, 2026, the office of the superintendent of
2 public instruction shall provide a report to the education committees
3 of the legislature on the following:

4 (a) Participation in the program, including demographic
5 information of the participating school districts;

6 (b) Outcomes of the program, including student growth and
7 academic performance between districts; and

8 (c) Recommendations based on the experiences of the school
9 district, including any relevant policy and fiscal recommendations
10 for the statewide application of a year-round school year.

11 (7) The office of the superintendent of public instruction may
12 adopt rules necessary for the implementation of this section.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act expires July 31, 2027.

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