
SENATE BILL 5147

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2021 Regular Session

By Senators Hawkins, Wellman, Billig, Dhingra, Frockt, Hasegawa, Kuderer, Muzzall, Nobles, Rivers, Saldaña, and Wilson, C.

Read first time 01/12/21. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to exploring alternative school calendars; adding
2 new sections to chapter 28A.630 RCW; creating a new section; and
3 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 extending
14 the school year or using an alternative calendar, selected school
15 districts will be better able to address the negative outcomes of the
16 pandemic in a flexible and locally responsive manner. It is also the
17 intent of the legislature to utilize federal stimulus funding as a
18 potential source of funding for this program.

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

1 (1) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
2 select a limited number of school districts for a program to extend
3 the number of school days to a 12-month school year. In doing so, the
4 office of the superintendent of public instruction may select up to
5 50 school districts to extend the number of school days provided to
6 students.

7 (2) School districts selected under the program shall provide up
8 to 210 school days in a school year beginning in the 2022-23 school
9 year and through the 2025-26 school year in all schools in their
10 district.

11 (3)(a) Each school district participating in the extended school
12 year calendar program must have:

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

19 (ii) A minimum district-wide enrollment of at least 500 students.

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 30 school
25 districts located west of the crest of the Cascade mountains and up
26 to 20 school districts located east of the crest of the Cascade
27 mountains.

28 (4) By December 31, 2026, the office of the superintendent of
29 public instruction shall provide a report to the education committees
30 of the legislature on the following:

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

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

35 (c) Recommendations based on the experiences of the school
36 district, including any relevant policy and fiscal recommendations
37 for the statewide application of a school year comprised of up to 210
38 school days.

39 (5) The office of the superintendent of public instruction may
40 adopt rules necessary for the implementation of this section.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.630

2 RCW to read as follows:

3 (1) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
4 select a limited number of school districts for a program to
5 implement a year-round school calendar. In doing so, the office of
6 the superintendent of public instruction may select up to 50 school
7 districts to provide a minimum of 180 school days throughout the
8 entire school year.

9 (2) School districts selected under the program shall provide a
10 year-round school year instructional schedule beginning in the
11 2022-23 school year and through the 2025-26 school year in all
12 schools in their district.

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

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

21 (ii) A minimum district-wide enrollment of at least 500 students.

22 (b) In selecting districts for participation in the program, the
23 office of the superintendent of public instruction shall select
24 districts on a first-come, first-served based on the application date
25 of eligible districts. The office of the superintendent of public
26 instruction may select up to 30 school districts located west of the
27 crest of the Cascade mountains and up to 20 school districts located
28 east of the crest of the Cascade mountains.

29 (4) In addition to other program requirements established by the
30 office of the superintendent of public instruction, school districts
31 participating in the program shall adopt a school calendar in which
32 breaks in scheduled instructional days for students are limited to a
33 maximum of two weeks at a time during 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 0.2.

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. 4.** This act expires July 31, 2027.

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