

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT  
**SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2078**

Chapter 112, Laws of 2022

67th Legislature  
2022 Regular Session

OUTDOOR LEARNING GRANT PROGRAM

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 9, 2022

Passed by the House March 8, 2022  
Yeas 92 Nays 5

LAURIE JINKINS

**Speaker of the House of  
Representatives**

Passed by the Senate March 4, 2022  
Yeas 44 Nays 3

DENNY HECK

**President of the Senate**

Approved March 23, 2022 4:00 PM

JAY INSLEE

**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Bernard Dean, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2078** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

BERNARD DEAN

**Chief Clerk**

FILED

March 23, 2022

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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**SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2078**

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AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

Passed Legislature - 2022 Regular Session

**State of Washington                      67th Legislature                      2022 Regular Session**

**By** House Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Rule, Barkis, Ryu, Fitzgibbon, Simmons, Shewmake, Berry, Leavitt, Berg, Senn, Callan, Dent, J. Johnson, Kloba, Bergquist, Chambers, Wicks, Orwall, Tharinger, Taylor, Klippert, and Pollet)

READ FIRST TIME 02/07/22.

1            AN ACT Relating to establishing the outdoor school for all  
2 program; amending RCW 28A.300.790; adding new sections to chapter  
3 28A.300 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5            NEW SECTION.        **Sec. 1.**        (1) The legislature finds that time  
6 outdoors helps children thrive physically, emotionally, and  
7 academically, yet over the past few generations, childhood has moved  
8 indoors. On average, today's kids spend up to 44 hours per week in  
9 front of a screen, and less than 10 minutes a day doing activities  
10 outdoors. For too many kids, access to the outdoors is determined by  
11 race, income, ability, and zip code. All children deserve equitable  
12 access to outdoor spaces where they can learn, play, and grow, but  
13 current access to outdoor educational opportunities is inequitable.

14            (2) From stress reduction to improved focus and engagement, and  
15 better academic performance, outdoor-based learning helps kids  
16 thrive. Research shows participants in outdoor educational activities  
17 have higher graduation rates, improved behavior in school and  
18 relationships with peers, higher academic achievement, critical  
19 thinking skills, direct experience of scientific concepts in the  
20 field, leadership and collaboration skills, and a deeper engagement  
21 with learning, place, and community. Outdoor educational programs

1 also offer new opportunities for work-integrated learning in science,  
2 natural resources, education, land management, agriculture, outdoor  
3 recreation, and other employment sectors. Outdoor-based learning  
4 activities can also be a key element in the larger system of regular  
5 outdoor instructional time and outdoor experiences that includes STEM  
6 fields, after-school programs, summer camps, 4-H, scouting, and  
7 related programs which can spark a lifelong appreciation for the  
8 natural world.

9 (3) The legislature further finds that accessibility is a major  
10 obstacle to universal outdoor education. Most sites lack  
11 accommodation for children with disabilities and support staff for  
12 children who need social and emotional support. In addition, some  
13 youth may experience cultural barriers to outdoor learning  
14 experiences.

15 (4) Therefore, the legislature intends to establish a statewide  
16 grant program and corresponding outdoor education experiences program  
17 to address these needs and to ensure that all students have a chance  
18 to benefit from outdoor education.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300  
20 RCW to read as follows:

21 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this  
22 specific purpose, or within funding made available, the outdoor  
23 learning grant program is established. The purpose of the grant  
24 program is to develop and support educational experiences for  
25 students in Washington public schools.

26 (2) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall  
27 administer the grant program in accordance with this section.

28 (3) Within existing resources, the Washington state parks and  
29 recreation commission, the department of natural resources, the  
30 Washington department of fish and wildlife, the Washington department  
31 of agriculture, and the Washington conservation commission may  
32 partner with the office of the superintendent of public instruction  
33 to provide relevant expertise on land management and work-integrated  
34 learning experiences and opportunities.

35 (4) Beginning in the 2022-23 school year, the office of the  
36 superintendent of public instruction shall award grants to eligible  
37 school districts, federally recognized tribes, and outdoor education  
38 program providers. The office may consult with the Washington

1 recreation and conservation office in awarding grants under this  
2 section.

3 (5) (a) The grant program must consist of two types of grants,  
4 including:

5 (i) Allocation-based grants for school districts to develop or  
6 support educational experiences; and

7 (ii) Competitive grants for federally recognized tribes and  
8 outdoor education providers to support existing capacity and to  
9 increase future capacity for outdoor learning experiences.

10 (b) In implementing student educational experiences under this  
11 section, school districts and outdoor education providers should  
12 ensure equitable access for students in all geographic regions, and  
13 high levels of accessibility for students with disabilities.

14 (6) Beginning in 2024, the office of the superintendent of public  
15 instruction, in accordance with RCW 43.01.036, must submit an annual  
16 report to the appropriate committees of the legislature with an  
17 evaluation of the program established by this section. The report may  
18 include information on other outdoor education and instructional time  
19 efforts and how they compare with programs funded through the outdoor  
20 learning grant program.

21 (7) For the purposes of this section, "school districts" includes  
22 state-tribal education compact schools established under chapter  
23 28A.715 RCW.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300  
25 RCW to read as follows:

26 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this  
27 specific purpose, the outdoor education experiences program is  
28 established as a program within the outdoor learning grant program  
29 established in section 2 of this act. The purpose of the outdoor  
30 education experiences program is to develop and support outdoor  
31 learning opportunities for 5th and 6th grade students in Washington  
32 public schools, with related opportunities for high school students  
33 to volunteer as counselors. The program will consist of hands-on  
34 learning experiences that: Are three to five days in duration and up  
35 to four nights; are overnight or day programs when overnight programs  
36 are impractical due to health, cultural, or capacity considerations;  
37 and have a focus on environmental education aligned with the  
38 Washington state learning standards and the development of social and  
39 emotional learning skills.

1 (2) The office of the superintendent of public instruction may  
2 work with a statewide nonprofit organization representing school  
3 principals to create guidelines for the program established by this  
4 section.

5 (3) In implementing the program established by this section, the  
6 priority focus of the office of the superintendent of public  
7 instruction must be given to schools that have been identified for  
8 improvement through the Washington school improvement framework and  
9 communities historically underserved by science education. These  
10 communities can include, but are not limited to, federally recognized  
11 tribes, including state-tribal education compact schools, migrant  
12 students, schools with high free and reduced-price lunch populations,  
13 rural and remote schools, students in alternative learning  
14 environments, students of color, English language learner students,  
15 and students receiving special education services.

16 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28A.300.790 and 2018 c 266 s 410 are each amended to  
17 read as follows:

18 (1) The superintendent of public instruction, subject to  
19 conformity with application or other requirements adopted by rule,  
20 shall approve requests by public schools as provided in RCW  
21 28A.320.173 to consider student participation in seasonal or  
22 nonseasonal outdoor-based activities, including programs established  
23 in accordance with section 2 of this act, and the outdoor education  
24 experiences program established in section 3 of this act, as  
25 instructional days for the purposes of basic education requirements  
26 established in RCW 28A.150.220(5).

27 (2) The superintendent of public instruction shall adopt rules to  
28 implement this section.

Passed by the House March 8, 2022.  
Passed by the Senate March 4, 2022.  
Approved by the Governor March 23, 2022.  
Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 23, 2022.

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