

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5030

Chapter 174, Laws of 2021

67th Legislature
2021 Regular Session

SCHOOL DISTRICTS—COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL COUNSELING PROGRAMS

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 25, 2021

Passed by the Senate April 14, 2021
Yeas 47 Nays 1

DENNY HECK

President of the Senate

Passed by the House April 7, 2021
Yeas 82 Nays 16

Laurie Jinkins

**Speaker of the House of
Representatives**

Approved May 3, 2021 2:28 PM

JAY INSLEE

Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

I, Brad Hendrickson, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5030** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

BRAD HENDRICKSON

Secretary

FILED

May 3, 2021

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5030

AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

Passed Legislature - 2021 Regular Session

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, Liias, 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 required by
26 section 2 of this act must be implemented by school counselors or
27 other educational staff associates for the purpose of guiding
28 students in academic pursuits, career planning, and social-emotional
29 learning.

30 (2) School counselors or other educational staff associates
31 assigned to implement comprehensive school counseling programs must
32 allocate at least 80 percent of their work time providing direct and
33 indirect services to benefit students, as aligned with standards
34 developed by a national organization representing school counselors.
35 Tasks such as coordinating and monitoring student testing,
36 supervising students at lunch and recess, and assuming the duties of
37 other noncounseling staff are not direct or indirect services.

38 (3) For purposes of this section:

1 (a) "Direct services" are in-person interactions between school
2 counselors or other educational staff associates assigned to
3 implement comprehensive school counseling programs and students that
4 help students improve achievement, attendance, and discipline.
5 Examples include, but are not limited to, instruction, appraisal,
6 advisement, and counseling.

7 (b) "Indirect services" are provided on behalf of students as a
8 result of interactions with others by school counselors or
9 educational staff associates assigned to implement comprehensive
10 school counseling programs that allow school counselors or
11 educational staff associates to enhance student achievement and
12 promote equity and access for all students. Examples include, but are
13 not limited to, collaboration, consultation, and referrals.

14 (c) "Work time" means the portion of an employee's contracted
15 hours for which they are contracted to perform the duties of a school
16 counselor or other educational staff associate assignment.

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

19 (1) By December 1, 2021, the office of the superintendent of
20 public instruction must develop and distribute to school districts
21 guidance for the implementation of sections 2 and 3 of this act. In
22 meeting the requirements of this subsection (1), the office of the
23 superintendent of public instruction shall consult with small school
24 districts and develop guidance for small districts that is
25 appropriate for the staffing resources, school counselor to student
26 ratios, and range of duties performed by school counselors and
27 educational staff associates in small school districts.

28 (2) Prior to the 2022-23 school year, each school district board
29 of directors must, within existing funds, adopt a transition plan for
30 developing and implementing a comprehensive school counseling program
31 plan.

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

Passed by the Senate April 14, 2021.

Passed by the House April 7, 2021.

Approved by the Governor May 3, 2021.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State May 3, 2021.

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