
HOUSE BILL 2404

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

By Representatives Rule, Stokesbary, Jacobsen, and Nance

Read first time 01/17/24. Referred to Committee on Appropriations.

1 AN ACT Relating to promoting learning recovery programs in public
2 schools; adding a new section to chapter 28A.655 RCW; and creating a
3 new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that the
6 academic achievement of public school students has declined in
7 comparison to student performance before the COVID-19 pandemic. A
8 recent study by the Washington state institute for public policy
9 found that average math and English language arts test scores were
10 lower in 2022 than before the pandemic, and that math scores fell
11 more significantly than English language arts scores.

12 (2) While the decline in test scores of Washington's students is
13 part of a national trend, and one of many effects resulting from a
14 global health crisis that profoundly impacted education systems, the
15 legislature recognizes that academic interventions provided to
16 students can support their academic recovery and may offset test
17 score declines and the associated negative effects, including
18 decreased future earnings.

19 (3) The legislature, therefore, intends to establish a grant
20 program in the office of the superintendent of public instruction to
21 support postpandemic learning recovery programs for students through

1 academic interventions, including tutoring, academically focused
2 summer school programs, and increased instructional time in math and
3 reading.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.655
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
7 specific purpose, the office of the superintendent of public
8 instruction shall establish and administer the learning recovery
9 grant program. The purpose of the program is to provide funds to
10 school districts for postpandemic learning recovery programs for
11 students through academic interventions, including tutoring,
12 academically focused summer school programs, and increased
13 instructional time in math and reading.

14 (2)(a) Applications for grant funds must be made on forms
15 developed by the office of the superintendent of public instruction.
16 Grant funds awarded by the office of the superintendent of public
17 instruction shall be to school districts:

18 (i) Demonstrating a need for postpandemic learning recovery
19 programs as evidenced by statewide math and English language arts
20 test scores or other academic measures for the applicable schools
21 from school years 2017-18, 2018-19, or 2019-20 in comparison to
22 school year 2021-22 or subsequent school years; and

23 (ii) Providing, as part of the application materials, a detailed
24 plan for supporting postpandemic learning recovery efforts with grant
25 funds through academic interventions that include, but are not
26 limited to, tutoring, academically focused summer school programs,
27 and increased instructional time for students in math, reading, or
28 both.

29 (b) Applicants that submit plans under this subsection must:

30 (i) Demonstrate their capacity to implement the plan;

31 (ii) Identify resources or programs of the school district that
32 may be combined with or amplified by grant funds to support
33 postpandemic learning recovery efforts;

34 (iii) Describe the measures that will be used to assess the
35 effectiveness of the plan; and

36 (iv) Describe actions to engage parents, students, and teachers
37 in the plan's development.

38 (3) School districts that receive a grant under this section may
39 reapply for grant funds in subsequent years or award cycles.

1 (4) For the purposes of this section, "school district" includes
2 school districts, charter schools established under chapter 28A.710
3 RCW, and state-tribal education compact schools subject to chapter
4 28A.715 RCW.

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