
HOUSE BILL 1267

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Representatives Couture, Pollet, Leavitt, Schmidt, Nance, Kloba, and Simmons

Read first time 01/14/25. Referred to Committee on Appropriations.

1 AN ACT Relating to funded special education enrollment; amending
2 RCW 28A.150.390; and adding a new section to chapter 28A.155 RCW.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.150.390 and 2024 c 229 s 1 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) The superintendent of public instruction shall submit to each
7 regular session of the legislature during an odd-numbered year a
8 programmed budget request for special education programs for students
9 with disabilities. Funding for programs operated by local school
10 districts shall be on an excess cost basis from appropriations
11 provided by the legislature for special education programs for
12 students with disabilities and shall take account of state funds
13 accruing through RCW 28A.150.260 (4)(a), (5), (6), and (8) and
14 28A.150.415.

15 (2) The excess cost allocation to school districts shall be based
16 on the following:

17 (a) A district's annual average head count enrollment of students
18 ages three and four and those five year olds not yet enrolled in
19 kindergarten who are eligible for and receiving special education,
20 multiplied by the district's base allocation per full-time equivalent
21 student, multiplied by 1.2;

1 (b) (i) Subject to the limitation in (b) (ii) of this subsection
2 (2) and subject to adjustments under section 2 of this act, a
3 district's annual average enrollment of resident students who are
4 eligible for and receiving special education, excluding students ages
5 three and four and those five year olds not yet enrolled in
6 kindergarten, multiplied by the district's base allocation per full-
7 time equivalent student, multiplied by the special education cost
8 multiplier rate of:

9 (A) ~~((Beginning in the 2020-21 school year, either:~~

10 ~~-(I) 1.0075 for students eligible for and receiving special~~
11 ~~education and reported to be in the general education setting for 80~~
12 ~~percent or more of the school day; or~~

13 ~~-(II) 0.995 for students eligible for and receiving special~~
14 ~~education and reported to be in the general education setting for~~
15 ~~less than 80 percent of the school day;~~

16 ~~-(B) Beginning in the 2023-24 school year, either:~~

17 ~~-(I)) 1.12 for students eligible for and receiving special~~
18 ~~education and reported to be in the general education setting for 80~~
19 ~~percent or more of the school day; or~~

20 ~~((-(II))) (B) 1.06 for students eligible for and receiving special~~
21 ~~education and reported to be in the general education setting for~~
22 ~~less than 80 percent of the school day.~~

23 (ii) ~~((I)) (A) Except as provided in (b) (ii) (B) of this~~
24 ~~subsection, if the enrollment percent exceeds ((16 percent)) the~~
25 ~~funded enrollment limit, the excess cost allocation calculated under~~
26 (b) (i) of this subsection must be adjusted by multiplying the
27 allocation by ~~((16 percent)) the funded enrollment limit~~ divided by
28 the enrollment percent.

29 (B) School districts with fewer than 2,500 full-time equivalent
30 students, school districts that received safety net awards under RCW
31 28A.150.392(2)(f) in the prior school year, and school districts
32 where at least 10 percent of enrollment is identified as having a
33 military parent are not subject to a funded enrollment limit.

34 (3) As used in this section:

35 (a) "Base allocation" means the total state allocation to all
36 schools in the district generated by the distribution formula under
37 RCW 28A.150.260 (4) (a), (5), (6), and (8) and the allocation under
38 RCW 28A.150.415, to be divided by the district's full-time equivalent
39 enrollment.

1 (b) "Basic education enrollment" means enrollment of resident
2 students including nonresident students enrolled under RCW
3 28A.225.225 and students from nonhigh districts enrolled under RCW
4 28A.225.210 and excluding students residing in another district
5 enrolled as part of an interdistrict cooperative program under RCW
6 28A.225.250.

7 (c) "Enrollment percent" means the district's resident annual
8 average enrollment of students who are eligible for and receiving
9 special education, excluding students ages three and four and those
10 five year olds not yet enrolled in kindergarten and students enrolled
11 in institutional education programs, as a percent of the district's
12 annual average full-time equivalent basic education enrollment.

13 (d) "Funded enrollment limit" means:

14 (i) In the 2024-25 school year, 16 percent;

15 (ii) In the 2025-26 school year, 16.5 percent;

16 (iii) In the 2026-27 and 2027-28 school years, 17 percent; and

17 (iv) Beginning in the 2028-29 school year, all students eligible
18 for and receiving special education must generate excess cost
19 allocations under this section.

20 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 28A.155
21 RCW to read as follows:

22 (1)(a) As part of its monitoring of special education programs,
23 the office of the superintendent of public instruction must determine
24 whether school districts and charter schools are overidentifying
25 students as eligible for special education or overproviding special
26 education services to students beyond what is required by their
27 individualized education programs.

28 (b) If a school district or charter school is determined to be
29 overidentifying students as eligible for special education or
30 overproviding special education services to students beyond what is
31 required by their individualized education programs, then the office
32 of the superintendent of public instruction must intervene and
33 establish a corrective action plan with the school district or
34 charter school.

35 (c) The office of the superintendent of public instruction must
36 communicate any determination resulting in a corrective action plan
37 under this subsection to the state auditor.

38 (2) In the school year following a determination resulting in a
39 corrective action under subsection (1) of this section, the state

1 auditor must audit for compliance with the corrective action plan and
2 Part B of the federal individuals with disabilities education act a
3 school district or charter school with an enrollment percent for
4 special education that exceeds 16 percent. The state auditor must
5 report the audit findings to the office of the superintendent of
6 public instruction.

7 (3) If the state auditor finds that a school district or charter
8 school audited as required by subsection (2) of this section has not
9 timely implemented corrective actions identified by the office of the
10 superintendent of public instruction, the office of the
11 superintendent of public instruction must adjust the excess cost
12 allocation calculated under RCW 28A.150.390(2)(b)(i) by multiplying
13 the allocation by 16 percent divided by the enrollment percent of the
14 school district or charter school if the enrollment percent exceeds
15 16 percent.

16 (4) As used in this section, "enrollment percent" has the same
17 meaning as in RCW 28A.150.390.

--- END ---