
HOUSE BILL 2470

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2026 Regular Session

By Representatives Leavitt, Shavers, Reeves, Ryu, and Callan; by request of Superintendent of Public Instruction

Read first time 01/14/26. Referred to Committee on Capital Budget.

1 AN ACT Relating to school construction assistance program
2 facilities support for on-base schools; and amending RCW 28A.525.166.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.525.166 and 2015 3rd sp.s. c 3 s 7018 are each
5 amended to read as follows:

6 Allocations to school districts of state funds provided by RCW
7 28A.525.162 through 28A.525.180 shall be made by the superintendent
8 of public instruction and the amount of state funding assistance to a
9 school district in financing a school plant project shall be
10 determined in the following manner:

11 (1) The boards of directors of the districts shall determine the
12 total cost of the proposed project, which cost may include the cost
13 of acquiring and preparing the site, the cost of constructing the
14 building or of acquiring a building and preparing the same for school
15 use, the cost of necessary equipment, taxes chargeable to the
16 project, necessary architects' fees, and a reasonable amount for
17 contingencies and for other necessary incidental expenses: PROVIDED,
18 That the total cost of the project shall be subject to review and
19 approval by the superintendent.

20 (2) The state funding assistance percentage for a school district
21 shall be computed by the following formula:

1 The ratio of the school district's adjusted valuation per pupil
 2 divided by the ratio of the total state adjusted valuation per pupil
 3 shall be subtracted from three, and then the result of the foregoing
 4 shall be divided by three plus (the ratio of the school district's
 5 adjusted valuation per pupil divided by the ratio of the total state
 6 adjusted valuation per pupil).

	District adjusted	Total state	
	3-valuation	÷ adjusted valuation	
Computed	per pupil	per pupil	State
State =	_____		= - % Funding
Ratio	District adjusted	Total state	Assistance
	3+valuation	÷ adjusted valuation	
	per pupil	per pupil	

14 PROVIDED, That in the event the state funding assistance percentage
 15 to any school district based on the above formula is less than twenty
 16 percent and such school district is otherwise eligible for state
 17 funding assistance under RCW 28A.525.162 through 28A.525.180, the
 18 superintendent may establish for such district a state funding
 19 assistance percentage not in excess of twenty percent of the approved
 20 cost of the project, if the superintendent finds that such additional
 21 assistance is necessary to provide minimum facilities for housing the
 22 pupils of the district.

23 (3) In addition to the computed state funding assistance
 24 percentage developed in subsection (2) of this section, a school
 25 district shall be entitled to additional percentage points determined
 26 by the average percentage of growth for the past three years. One
 27 percent shall be added to the computed state funding assistance
 28 percentage for each percent of growth, with a maximum of twenty
 29 percent.

30 (4) In computing the state funding assistance percentage in
 31 subsection (2) of this section and adjusting the percentage under
 32 subsection (3) of this section, students residing outside the school
 33 district who are enrolled in alternative learning experience courses
 34 under RCW 28A.232.010 shall be excluded from the count of total
 35 pupils. In lieu of the exclusion in this subsection, a district may
 36 submit an alternative calculation for excluding students enrolled in
 37 alternative learning experience courses. The alternative calculation
 38 must show the student head count use of district classroom facilities

1 on a regular basis for a reasonable duration by out-of-district
2 alternative learning experience students subtracted by the head count
3 of in-district alternative learning experience students not using
4 district classroom facilities on a regular basis for a reasonable
5 duration. The alternative calculation must be submitted in a form
6 approved by the office of the superintendent of public instruction.
7 The office of the superintendent of public instruction must develop
8 rules to define "regular basis" and "reasonable duration."

9 (5) The approved cost of the project determined in the manner
10 prescribed in this section multiplied by the state funding assistance
11 percentage derived as provided for in this section shall be the
12 amount of state funding assistance to the district for the financing
13 of the project: PROVIDED, That need therefor has been established to
14 the satisfaction of the superintendent: PROVIDED, FURTHER, That
15 additional state funding assistance may be allowed if it is found by
16 the superintendent, considering policy recommendations from the
17 school facilities citizen advisory panel that such assistance is
18 necessary in order to meet (a) a school housing emergency resulting
19 from the destruction of a school building by fire, the condemnation
20 of a school building by properly constituted authorities, a sudden
21 excessive and clearly foreseeable future increase in school
22 population, or other conditions similarly emergent in nature; or (b)
23 a special school housing burden resulting from projects of statewide
24 significance or imposed by virtue of the admission of nonresident
25 students into educational programs established, maintained and
26 operated in conformity with the requirements of law; or (c) a
27 deficiency in the capital funds of the district resulting from
28 financing, subsequent to April 1, 1969, and without benefit of the
29 state funding assistance provided by prior state assistance programs,
30 the construction of a needed school building project or projects
31 approved in conformity with the requirements of such programs, after
32 having first applied for and been denied state funding assistance
33 because of the inadequacy of state funds available for the purpose;
34 or (d) a condition created by the fact that an excessive number of
35 students live in state owned housing; or (e) a need for the
36 construction of a school building to provide for improved school
37 district organization or racial balance; or (f) conditions similar to
38 those defined under (a), (b), (c), (d), and (e) of this subsection,
39 creating a like emergency.

1 (6) (~~For the 2015-2017 biennium, schools determined to have a~~
2 ~~lack of sufficient space to provide science classrooms or labs, to~~
3 ~~meet the requirements of law, have a special housing burden condition~~
4 ~~similar to those defined under subsection (5)(b) of this section,~~
5 ~~creating a like emergency. For the 2015-2017 biennium, school~~
6 ~~districts are entitled to additional percentage points for school~~
7 ~~construction projects that have a special housing burden condition~~
8 ~~only and have received private donations in the form of cash, in-~~
9 ~~kind, or equipment of more than one hundred thousand dollars. The~~
10 ~~additional percentage points are determined by (a) school district~~
11 ~~student enrollments in the free and reduced-price meals program, (b)~~
12 ~~school district class as defined by RCW 28A.300.065, and (c) the~~
13 ~~funding assistance percentage as calculated in subsection (2) of this~~
14 ~~section. The additional percentage points under (a) of this~~
15 ~~subsection are twenty percent of the percent of student enrollments~~
16 ~~eligible and enrolled in the free and reduced-price meals program.~~
17 ~~The additional percentage points under (b) of this subsection are ten~~
18 ~~for second class school districts. The additional percentage points~~
19 ~~under (c) of this subsection are ten for school districts with~~
20 ~~funding assistance percentages of more than fifty percent.)) When
21 determining eligibility for state funding assistance for the school
22 construction assistance program, school district instructional
23 facilities located on military bases must be excluded from the school
24 district's inventory of available instructional space, and the amount
25 of state assistance shall be equal to the total approved project cost
26 minus the amount of federal funding received for the construction of
27 the project.~~

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