

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**HOUSE BILL 1796**

Chapter 170, Laws of 2026

69th Legislature  
2026 Regular Session

SCHOOL DISTRICTS—NONVOTED DEBT FOR SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 11, 2026

Passed by the House March 11, 2026  
Yeas 95 Nays 2

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LAURIE JINKINS

**Speaker of the House of  
Representatives**

Passed by the Senate March 5, 2026  
Yeas 30 Nays 18

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DENNY HECK

**President of the Senate**

Approved March 24, 2026 10:16 AM

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BOB FERGUSON

**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 **HOUSE BILL 1796** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

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BERNARD DEAN

**Chief Clerk**

FILED

March 25, 2026

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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HOUSE BILL 1796

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AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

Passed Legislature - 2026 Regular Session

**State of Washington**                      **69th Legislature**                      **2025 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Callan, Berg, Santos, Parshley, Ramel, Wylie, Reed, Ormsby, and Hill

Read first time 02/03/25. Referred to Committee on Capital Budget.

1            AN ACT Relating to school districts' authority to contract  
2 indebtedness for school construction; and amending RCW 28A.530.080.

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

4            **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.530.080 and 2010 c 241 s 1 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6            (1) (a) In addition to the authority granted under RCW  
7 28A.530.010, a school district may contract indebtedness for any  
8 purpose specified in RCW 28A.530.010 (2) (~~(, (4), and)~~) through (5) or  
9 for the purpose of purchasing any real or personal property, or  
10 property rights, in connection with the exercise of any powers or  
11 duties which it is now or hereafter authorized to exercise, and issue  
12 bonds, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness therefor without a  
13 vote of the qualified electors of the district, subject to the  
14 limitations on indebtedness set forth in RCW 39.36.020(3) and this  
15 subsection.

16            (b) To exercise the authority in (a) of this subsection for any  
17 purpose specified in RCW 28A.530.010(3) a school district must:

18            (i) Have received approval from the qualified electors of the  
19 district to collect a levy to support the construction,  
20 modernization, or remodeling of school facilities as authorized under  
21 RCW 84.52.053, which must be used to fully repay the indebtedness;

1 (ii) Not have been on binding conditions pursuant to RCW  
2 28A.505.110 in the three years preceding the date of the contract;  
3 and

4 (iii) Agree to delay for two years the receipt of state financial  
5 assistance for the project that the school district is eligible for  
6 under RCW 28A.525.162 through 28A.525.180.

7 (2) Before issuing nonvoted bonds in excess of (~~two hundred~~  
8 ~~fifty thousand dollars~~) \$250,000, a school district shall publish  
9 notice of intent to issue such bonds and shall hold a public hearing  
10 on the proposal at any regular or special meeting of the school  
11 board. The notice shall designate: The date, time, and place of the  
12 hearing; the purpose and amount of the bonds; the type, terms, and  
13 conditions of bonds; and the means identified for repayment. The  
14 notice shall also state that any person may appear and be heard on  
15 the issue of issuing such bonds. The notice shall be published at  
16 least once each week for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper of  
17 general circulation in the district, or if there is none, in a  
18 newspaper of general circulation in the county or counties in which  
19 such district is a part. The last notice shall be published no later  
20 than seven days immediately before the hearing. At the conclusion of  
21 public comment, the board of directors may proceed to determine, by  
22 resolution, whether to issue such bonds.

23 (3) The public notice and hearing requirements in subsection (2)  
24 of this section shall not apply to any refinancing or refunding of  
25 outstanding nonvoted or voted bonds.

26 (4) Such bonds, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness shall  
27 be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW, and the  
28 proceeds thereof shall be deposited in the capital projects fund, the  
29 transportation vehicle fund, or the general fund, as applicable.

Passed by the House March 11, 2026.

Passed by the Senate March 5, 2026.

Approved by the Governor March 24, 2026.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 25, 2026.

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