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HOUSE BILL 1938

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State of Washington

68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

By Representative Shavers

Prefiled 12/13/23.

1 AN ACT Relating to increasing the accessibility of academic  
2 reengagement opportunities for eligible students; and amending RCW  
3 28A.175.100, 28A.175.105, and 28A.175.115.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.175.100 and 2010 c 20 s 2 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 (1) This section and RCW 28A.175.105 through 28A.175.115 provide  
8 a statutory framework for a statewide dropout reengagement system to  
9 provide appropriate educational opportunities and access to services  
10 for eligible students (~~(age sixteen to twenty-one who have dropped~~  
11 ~~out of high school or are not accumulating sufficient credits to~~  
12 ~~reasonably complete a high school diploma in a public school before~~  
13 ~~the age of twenty-one)) as defined in RCW 28A.175.105.~~

14 (2) Under the system, school districts may:

15 (a) Enter into the model interlocal agreement developed under RCW  
16 28A.175.110 with an educational service district, community or  
17 technical college, or other public entity to provide a dropout  
18 reengagement program for eligible students of the district; or

19 (b) Enter into the model contract developed under RCW 28A.175.110  
20 with a community-based organization to provide a dropout reengagement  
21 program for eligible students of the district.

1 (3) If a school district does not enter an interlocal agreement  
2 or contract with an educational service district, community or  
3 technical college, other public entity, or community-based  
4 organization to provide a dropout reengagement program for eligible  
5 students residing in the district, the educational service district,  
6 community or technical college, other public entity, or community-  
7 based organization may petition a school district other than the  
8 resident school district to enroll the eligible students under RCW  
9 28A.225.220 through 28A.225.230 and enter the interlocal agreement or  
10 contract with the petitioning entity to provide a dropout  
11 reengagement program for the eligible students.

12 (4) This section does not affect the authority of school  
13 districts to contract for educational services under RCW 28A.150.305  
14 and 28A.320.035. This section also does not affect the authority of  
15 school districts to offer dropout reengagement programs or other  
16 educational services for eligible students directly.

17 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.175.105 and 2021 c 164 s 7 are each amended to  
18 read as follows:

19 The definitions in this section apply throughout RCW 28A.175.100  
20 through 28A.175.110 unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

21 (1) "Dropout reengagement program" means an educational program  
22 that offers at least the following instruction and services:

23 (a) Academic instruction, including but not limited to  
24 preparation to earn a high school equivalency certificate as provided  
25 in RCW 28B.50.536 in accordance with rules adopted under RCW  
26 28A.305.190, academic skills instruction, and college and work  
27 readiness preparation, that generates credits that can be applied to  
28 a high school diploma from the student's school district or from a  
29 community or technical college under RCW 28B.50.535 and has the goal  
30 of enabling the student to obtain the academic and work readiness  
31 skills necessary for employment or postsecondary study. A dropout  
32 reengagement program is not required to offer instruction in only  
33 those subject areas where a student is deficient in accumulated  
34 credits. Academic instruction must be provided by teachers certified  
35 by the Washington professional educator standards board or by  
36 instructors employed by a community or technical college whose  
37 required credentials are established by the college;

1 (b) Case management, academic and career counseling, and  
2 assistance with accessing services and resources that support at-risk  
3 youth and reduce barriers to educational success; and

4 (c) If the program provider is a community or technical college,  
5 the opportunity for qualified students to enroll in college courses  
6 that lead to a postsecondary degree or certificate. The college may  
7 not charge an eligible student tuition for such enrollment.

8 (2) "Eligible student" means a student who:

9 (a) Is (~~(at least sixteen but)~~) eligible to be enrolled in high  
10 school and is less than (~~(twenty-one)~~) 21 years of age at the  
11 beginning of the school year;

12 (b) Is not accumulating sufficient credits toward a high school  
13 diploma to reasonably complete a high school diploma from a public  
14 school before the age of (~~(twenty-one)~~) 21, or is recommended for the  
15 program by case managers from the department of social and health  
16 services or the juvenile justice system; and

17 (c) Is enrolled or enrolls in the school district in which the  
18 student resides, or is enrolled or enrolls in an institutional  
19 education program as defined in RCW 28A.190.005 or a nonresident  
20 school district under RCW 28A.225.220 through 28A.225.230.

21 (3) "Full-time equivalent eligible student" means an eligible  
22 student whose enrollment and attendance meet criteria adopted by the  
23 office of the superintendent of public instruction specifically for  
24 dropout reengagement programs. The criteria shall be:

25 (a) Based on the community or technical college credits generated  
26 by the student if the program provider is a community or technical  
27 college; and

28 (b) Based on a minimum amount of planned programming or  
29 instruction and minimum attendance by the student rather than hours  
30 of seat time if the program provider is a community-based  
31 organization.

32 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.175.115 and 2010 c 20 s 5 are each amended to  
33 read as follows:

34 (1) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall  
35 adopt and amend as necessary rules to implement RCW 28A.175.100  
36 through 28A.175.110.

37 (2) When adopting rules under this section and developing model  
38 interlocal agreements and contracts under RCW 28A.175.110, the office  
39 of the superintendent of public instruction shall consult with the

1 state board for community and technical colleges, the workforce  
2 training and education coordinating board, colleges and community-  
3 based organizations that have previously offered dropout reengagement  
4 programs, providers of online courses and programs approved under RCW  
5 28A.250.020, school districts, and educational service districts.

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