
HOUSE BILL 1819

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By Representatives Reed and Berry

1 AN ACT Relating to music instruction in public schools; amending
2 RCW 28A.230.305; adding a new section to chapter 28A.345 RCW; and
3 creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Washington has been a leader in K-12 arts
6 education by being one of the first states to adopt arts graduation
7 requirements and state policy requiring students have access to arts
8 instruction and courses by appropriately endorsed certificated
9 educators.

10 The legislature recognizes the value and benefit of music
11 education for students' academic, cognitive, and social-emotional
12 growth and well-being. Research shows that students with regular
13 access to music instruction often perform better on reading and math
14 assessments, and are more confident, focused, and collaborative.

15 However, opportunities for music education at the elementary
16 level are uneven across school districts with some students receiving
17 far less time and opportunity with music instruction than other
18 students. Often it is music programs that get dismantled first when
19 school districts determine budget reductions.

1 The legislature, therefore, intends to emphasize the importance
2 of music instruction for elementary students by requiring a set
3 amount of weekly time for music instruction.

4 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.230.305 and 2022 c 250 s 3 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) Beginning with the 2023-24 school year, school districts with
7 more than 200 enrolled students shall offer regular instruction in at
8 least one visual art or at least one performing art, throughout the
9 school year. Each student must receive instruction in at least one
10 arts discipline throughout their elementary and middle education
11 experience. For grades nine through 12, all students must be given
12 the opportunity to take arts coursework each academic year.

13 (2) Every student must have access to arts education, as part of
14 basic education under RCW 28A.150.210. Arts instruction must be
15 accessible by all students, in a manner that is commensurate with
16 instruction in other core subject areas.

17 (3) (a) Beginning with the 2023-24 school year, school districts
18 shall provide 100 minutes per week of music instruction to each
19 student in grades one through five.

20 (b) School districts shall adopt a policy and procedure to
21 implement (a) of this subsection (3) by the beginning of the 2024-25
22 school year.

23 (4)(a) Except as provided ((in—(b)—of)) otherwise by this
24 subsection (4), arts instruction must be provided by either: A
25 certificated teacher with an endorsement in the relevant arts
26 discipline; or a certificated teacher actively pursuing an
27 endorsement in the relevant arts discipline.

28 (b) A person holding a limited teaching certificate may provide
29 arts instruction while either: (i) The school district recruits and
30 hires a certificated teacher with the qualifications provided in (a)
31 of this subsection; or (ii) the certificated teacher with
32 qualifications provided in (a) of this subsection takes leave as
33 provided in the school district's written leave policy required by
34 RCW 28A.400.300.

35 ((4)) (c) Music instruction required by subsection (3) of this
36 section may be provided by a teacher with an elementary education
37 endorsement.

38 (5) Instruction under this section must be solely for the arts
39 discipline in the skills and craft of each specific arts discipline

1 as their own end, rather than as a vehicle to enhance learning in any
2 other nonarts subject area. If schools wish to integrate or infuse
3 the arts into other subject matter, they must do so in addition to
4 the regular, formal arts instruction required by this section.

5 ~~((5))~~ (6) The arts instructors in each school district, as
6 subject matter experts, shall be consulted to determine which
7 specific visual and performing arts courses to offer at given grade
8 levels, so that instruction is properly aligned to state learning
9 standards in the arts and students' developmental stages and
10 vertically aligned to give arts-focused students the best chance for
11 success in their arts college or career pathway.

12 (7) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
13 adopt and revise rules as necessary to implement subsection (3) of
14 this section. In developing rules in accordance with this subsection
15 (7), the office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
16 seek input from music instructors and other interested stakeholders.

17 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 28A.345
18 RCW to read as follows:

19 (1) By December 15, 2023, the Washington state school directors'
20 association, in consultation with the office of the superintendent of
21 public instruction, shall adopt a model policy and procedure that
22 school districts may use to implement the requirements of RCW
23 28A.230.305(3).

24 (2) The model policy and procedure required by this section must:

25 (a) Address the importance of access to music instruction for
26 elementary students and provide that daily music instruction be
27 equivalent to 20 minutes per day or 100 minutes per week for
28 elementary students in grades one through five;

29 (b) Consider any needed exemptions to the requirements of RCW
30 28A.230.305(3);

31 (c) Recognize the importance of music instruction being taught by
32 an appropriately endorsed certificated teacher while acknowledging
33 shortages of endorsed teachers and considering options for filling
34 positions with the intent that those teachers have or seek the proper
35 endorsement; and

36 (d) Be periodically reviewed by the Washington state school
37 directors' association and be revised as necessary.

--- END ---