
HOUSE BILL 2358

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2014 Regular Session

By Representatives Lytton, Carlyle, Dahlquist, Haigh, Pettigrew, and Tarleton

Read first time 01/16/14. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to adopting a definition of professional learning;
2 adding a new section to chapter 28A.300 RCW; and creating a new
3 section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that effective
6 professional learning enables educators to develop the knowledge,
7 skills, practices, and dispositions needed to help students learn and
8 achieve at higher levels.

9 (2) The legislature further finds that a clear definition of
10 professional learning provides a foundational vision that sets the
11 course for how state, regional, and local education leaders support
12 educator professional development. A shared, statewide definition is
13 a piece of critical infrastructure to guide policy and investments in
14 the content, structure, and provision of the types of professional
15 development that are associated with increased student performance. A
16 definition of professional learning is also an accountability measure
17 to assure that professional development will have the highest possible
18 return on investment in terms of increased student performance.

1 (3) Therefore, the legislature intends to adopt a statewide
2 definition of effective professional learning and encourages each
3 public school and school district to establish sustained, job-embedded,
4 relevant professional learning opportunities that meet the definition.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) The term "professional learning" means a comprehensive,
8 sustained, and intensive approach to improving teachers' and
9 principals' effectiveness in raising student achievement. Professional
10 learning fosters collective responsibility for improved student
11 performance and must comprise learning that is aligned with student
12 learning and educator development needs, and school, school district,
13 or state improvement goals. Professional learning shall have as its
14 primary focus the improvement of teachers' and school leaders'
15 effectiveness in assisting all students to meet the state learning
16 goals.

17 (2) Professional learning shall include the work of established
18 collaborative teams of teachers, school leaders, and other
19 administrative, instructional, and educational services staff members,
20 or third-party providers under contract with the office of the
21 superintendent of public instruction, who commit to working together to
22 accomplish common goals and who are engaged in a continuous cycle of
23 professional improvement that is focused on:

24 (a) Evaluating student and teacher learning needs through ongoing
25 reviews of data on student and teacher performance;

26 (b) Defining a clear set of educator learning goals based on the
27 rigorous analysis of these data; and

28 (c) Regularly assessing the effectiveness of the professional
29 learning in achieving identified learning goals, improving teaching,
30 and assisting all students in meeting state academic learning
31 standards.

32 (3) Professional learning shall incorporate coherent, sustained,
33 and evidence-based strategies that improve educator effectiveness and
34 student achievement, including job-embedded coaching or other forms of
35 assistance to support educators' transfer of new knowledge and skills
36 to their work.

1 (4) Professional learning may be supported by external expert
2 assistance or additional activities that:

3 (a) Address defined student and educator learning goals;

4 (b) Advance ongoing school-based professional development; and

5 (c) Include, but are not limited to, courses, workshops,
6 institutes, networks, and conferences provided by for-profit and
7 nonprofit entities outside the school such as universities, educational
8 service districts, technical assistance providers, networks of content
9 specialists, and other education organizations and associations.

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