
HOUSE BILL 2799

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2012 Regular Session

By Representatives Sullivan, Santos, Maxwell, Darneille, Hunt, Carlyle, Haigh, Pollet, and Kenney; by request of Governor Gregoire

Read first time 02/27/12. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to authorizing a five-year pilot project for up to
2 six collaborative schools for innovation and success operated by school
3 districts in partnership with colleges of education; amending RCW
4 28A.305.140, 28A.655.180, and 28A.657.050; adding new sections to
5 chapter 28A.630 RCW; creating a new section; and providing an
6 expiration date.

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

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that:

9 (a) There are more low-achieving schools in the state seeking
10 assistance in improving the academic outcomes of students than are
11 being assisted using current school improvement initiatives;

12 (b) Promising educator development programs provide intensive
13 school-based, residency, and mentor experiences for those preparing for
14 careers in teaching and educational leadership; and

15 (c) Collaboration among colleges of education, schools, and
16 communities offers unique opportunities to leverage resources, foster
17 innovation, disseminate best practices in educator preparation and
18 professional development, and close the educational opportunity gap for
19 students in low-achieving schools.

1 (2) Therefore, the legislature intends to authorize a pilot project
2 where colleges of education collaborate with school districts to
3 establish collaborative schools for innovation and success serving
4 particularly at-risk and low-achieving students. Each collaboration is
5 intended both to accelerate student achievement and deepen the
6 knowledge and skills of current and future educators. The legislature
7 intends that the initial collaborations occur in elementary schools.
8 Pending the evaluation results of the initial pilot project, the
9 legislature may expand the collaborations to include middle and high
10 schools.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.630
12 RCW to read as follows:

13 As used in sections 3 through 7 of this act, unless the context
14 clearly requires otherwise, "college of education" means an institution
15 of higher education in Washington state that has been approved by the
16 professional educator standards board to offer educator preparation and
17 certification programs.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.630
19 RCW to read as follows:

20 (1) The collaborative schools for innovation and success pilot
21 project is created as follows:

22 (a) The school district located in western Washington with the
23 largest number of enrolled students and the school district located in
24 eastern Washington with the largest number of enrolled students may
25 each enter an agreement with a college of education to participate in
26 the pilot project; and

27 (b) Any other school district in the state may enter an agreement
28 with a college of education and submit an application to the office of
29 the superintendent of public instruction and the professional educator
30 standards board as provided in section 4 of this act to participate in
31 the pilot project.

32 (2) The purpose of the pilot project is for colleges of education
33 and school districts to collaborate to improve student and educator
34 success by:

35 (a) Developing and implementing research-based models of

1 instruction and services that have proven to be successful in closing
2 the educational opportunity gap and improving student learning in
3 low-performing schools; and

4 (b) Developing and implementing research-based models of educator
5 preparation and professional development programs that have proven to
6 be successful in building an educator workforce with the knowledge,
7 skills, and background that aligns with the characteristics and needs
8 of students in low-performing schools.

9 (3) For each proposed pilot project, the college of education and
10 the school district shall collaborate to select an elementary school in
11 the district to be the collaborative school for innovation and success.
12 The school must be among the lowest-achieving schools in the district
13 as measured by district, state, or federal criteria, including criteria
14 that measure the educational opportunity gap in the school, and the
15 school must not have received state, federal, or private funds for the
16 purpose of implementing a school improvement plan.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.630
18 RCW to read as follows:

19 (1) Each school district and college of education seeking approval
20 to participate in the collaborative schools for innovation and success
21 pilot project, including the districts and colleges under section
22 3(1)(a) of this act, must submit a joint application of intent to the
23 office of the superintendent of public instruction and the professional
24 educator standards board by July 1, 2012.

25 (2) An application of intent must contain:

26 (a) The school selected for inclusion in the pilot project and the
27 rationale for its selection;

28 (b) The research basis and theory of action proposed to close the
29 educational opportunity gap and improve student achievement in the
30 selected school;

31 (c) The research basis and theory of action proposed to improve
32 educator preparation and professional development in the selected
33 school;

34 (d) A preliminary plan for involving parents, community members,
35 and school staff in the development of the innovation and success plan
36 under section 5 of this act;

1 (e) The proposed roles and responsibilities of the college of
2 education and school district in the pilot project; and

3 (f) A preliminary plan for using the results of the pilot project
4 to improve educational programs throughout the school district and
5 throughout the college of education.

6 (3) The office of the superintendent of public instruction and the
7 professional educator standards board shall jointly review the
8 applications. The office and the board must approve but may comment
9 and make recommendations for improvement of the applications from the
10 districts and colleges under section 3(1)(a) of this act. The office
11 and board shall select up to four additional applications for
12 participation in the pilot project no later than August 1, 2012.

13 (4) The selection criteria shall include, but are not limited to,
14 the quality of the research basis for the proposed collaboration; the
15 efficacy of the proposed strategies for closing the achievement gap,
16 improving student achievement, and improving educator preparation in
17 low-performing schools; and the degree of commitment displayed by the
18 college of education and the school district to collaborate throughout
19 the pilot project.

20 (5) Subject to funds appropriated specifically for this purpose,
21 the office of the superintendent of public instruction shall allocate
22 grants to the districts and colleges under section 3(1)(a) of this act,
23 plus one of the additional selected applications, to be used for
24 development and implementation of an innovation and success plan under
25 section 5 of this act. The colleges of education and school districts
26 from the remaining selected applications may participate in the
27 collaborative schools for innovation and success pilot project by
28 complying with the provisions of sections 5 through 7 of this act, but
29 without state funding support.

30 (6) The college of education shall serve as the fiscal agent for
31 the pilot project, unless the college is an independent institution of
32 higher education, in which case the school district shall serve as the
33 fiscal agent. Each college of education and school district must seek
34 private, foundation, community, or other grant funds to leverage any
35 supplemental state funds that may be appropriated for the purposes of
36 the pilot project.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.630
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 (1) After receiving approval of an application of intent, each
4 college of education and school district must conduct a comprehensive
5 needs assessment of the students to be served by a collaborative school
6 for innovation and success. The needs assessment must include a
7 thorough evaluation of student needs as identified by the parents of
8 the students served by the school, as well as the levels of support
9 within the school community and in the external community at-large for
10 students' academic and social emotional needs. The needs assessment
11 must also examine elements included in an academic performance audit
12 under RCW 28A.657.040.

13 (2) The college of education and the school district must develop
14 an innovation and success plan for the school in collaboration with
15 school staff, parents, and community members.

16 (3) The innovation and success plan must include:

17 (a) The proposed program for instruction, wraparound support
18 services, resource deployment, and professional development that has
19 been developed based on the comprehensive needs assessment;

20 (b) A family and community engagement strategy that builds support
21 among students and parents for high achievement for all students in
22 culturally appropriate ways;

23 (c) Professional learning communities among school staff and higher
24 education faculty that are focused on identifying and responding to
25 emergent student learning needs;

26 (d) Intensive preparation of teacher and principal candidates using
27 research-based practices and a particular focus on skill development to
28 improve learning for English language learners, highly mobile and
29 homeless students, students with disabilities, and other students with
30 special learning needs;

31 (e) Identification of the metrics that will be used to assess
32 student achievement and skill development, both while the students are
33 enrolled in elementary school and after they continue into middle
34 school, and specific goals for improvement of these outcomes over the
35 term of the pilot project, including but not limited to such metrics as
36 attendance, grade-level retention, student growth, disciplinary
37 incidents, course completion and grades, and performance on
38 classroom-based assessments;

1 (f) Identification of the metrics that will be used to assess
2 educator skill development, both for preservice and certificated
3 educators, and specific goals for improvement of these outcomes over
4 the term of the pilot project;

5 (g) Identification of private and community partners to provide
6 wraparound services, technology, mentoring, or other enhancements for
7 the students in the school;

8 (h) Identification of waivers to be requested from the state board
9 of education under RCW 28A.305.140 or from the superintendent of public
10 instruction under RCW 28A.655.180;

11 (i) Identification of any modifications to approved educator
12 preparation programs or other waivers to be requested from the
13 professional educator standards board;

14 (j) Identification and completion of any modifications to school
15 district collective bargaining agreements necessary to implement the
16 innovation and success plan, using the procedures under RCW
17 28A.657.050(3); and

18 (k) A proposed budget based on funding and resources available to
19 the pilot project.

20 (4) Each college of education and school district must submit a
21 completed innovation and success plan to the office of the
22 superintendent of public instruction and the professional educator
23 standards board by March 15, 2013.

24 (5) The office of the superintendent of public instruction and the
25 professional educator standards board must notify each college of
26 education and school district by May 1, 2013, whether the innovation
27 and success plan has been approved. If the plan is not approved, the
28 reasons must be specified in writing and the college of education and
29 school district must be provided an opportunity to revise and resubmit
30 the plan within thirty days. The office and the board may provide
31 technical assistance in revising a plan.

32 (6) School districts are encouraged to assign teachers, principals,
33 and other staff to a collaborative school for innovation and success
34 who express an interest, commitment, and qualifications to participate
35 in the pilot project. School districts are also encouraged to permit
36 the transfer of existing school staff to another school in the district
37 if the staff do not wish to participate in the pilot project.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.630
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 (1) Approved innovation and success plans shall be implemented in
4 each collaborative school for innovation and success pilot project over
5 a five-year period beginning in the 2013-14 school year through the
6 2017-18 school year.

7 (2) Each pilot project shall submit an annual progress report to
8 the office of the superintendent of public instruction and the
9 professional educator standards board by December 1st. The report must
10 describe the best practices and new approaches being used at the
11 collaborative school for innovation and success, lessons learned,
12 adjustments planned and implemented, suggestions for expanding use of
13 best practices to a larger scale, and other results from the
14 collaborative experience of the pilot project. The office and board
15 shall compile and summarize the reports in a standard format and
16 forward them to the governor and the appropriate committees of the
17 legislature.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.630
19 RCW to read as follows:

20 (1) Subject to funds appropriated specifically for this purpose,
21 the office of the superintendent of public instruction shall contract
22 with a northwest educational research organization to conduct an
23 evaluation of the collaborative schools for innovation and success
24 pilot project using quantitative and qualitative analysis to identify
25 successful practices in improving student and educator outcomes. The
26 organization shall submit a preliminary evaluation by December 1, 2015,
27 and a final evaluation by September 1, 2018, to the superintendent of
28 public instruction and the professional educator standards board.

29 (2) Based on the experience of the participants and the evaluation
30 results, the office of the superintendent of public instruction and the
31 professional educator standards board shall recommend whether the pilot
32 project should be modified, continued, and expanded to include other
33 elementary schools in the state, or expanded to include middle and high
34 schools. The office and the board shall submit their recommendations
35 and the final report of the pilot project to the governor and the
36 appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2018.

1 **Sec. 8.** RCW 28A.305.140 and 2011 c 260 s 8 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 (1) The state board of education may grant waivers to school
4 districts from the provisions of RCW 28A.150.200 through 28A.150.220 on
5 the basis that such waiver or waivers are necessary to:

6 (a) Implement successfully a local plan to provide for all students
7 in the district an effective education system that is designed to
8 enhance the educational program for each student. The local plan may
9 include alternative ways to provide effective educational programs for
10 students who experience difficulty with the regular education program;
11 (~~(e)~~)

12 (b) Implement an innovation school or innovation zone designated
13 under RCW 28A.630.081; or

14 (c) Implement a collaborative schools for innovation and success
15 pilot project approved under section 4 of this act.

16 (2) The state board shall adopt criteria to evaluate the need for
17 the waiver or waivers.

18 **Sec. 9.** RCW 28A.655.180 and 2011 c 260 s 9 are each amended to
19 read as follows:

20 (1) The state board of education, where appropriate, or the
21 superintendent of public instruction, where appropriate, may grant
22 waivers to districts from the provisions of statutes or rules relating
23 to: The length of the school year; student-to-teacher ratios; and
24 other administrative rules that in the opinion of the state board of
25 education or the opinion of the superintendent of public instruction
26 may need to be waived in order for a district to implement a plan for
27 restructuring its educational program or the educational program of
28 individual schools within the district or to implement an innovation
29 school or innovation zone designated under RCW 28A.630.081 or to
30 implement a collaborative schools for innovation and success pilot
31 project approved under section 4 of this act.

32 (2) School districts may use the application process in RCW
33 28A.305.140 to apply for the waivers under this section.

34 **Sec. 10.** RCW 28A.657.050 and 2010 c 235 s 105 are each amended to
35 read as follows:

36 (1) The local district superintendent and local school board of a

1 school district designated as a required action district must submit a
2 required action plan to the state board of education for approval.
3 Unless otherwise required by subsection (3) of this section, the plan
4 must be submitted under a schedule as required by the state board. A
5 required action plan must be developed in collaboration with
6 administrators, teachers, and other staff, parents, unions representing
7 any employees within the district, students, and other representatives
8 of the local community. The superintendent of public instruction shall
9 provide a district with assistance in developing its plan if requested.
10 The school board must conduct a public hearing to allow for comment on
11 a proposed required action plan. The local school district shall
12 submit the plan first to the office of the superintendent of public
13 instruction to review and approve that the plan is consistent with
14 federal guidelines. After the office of the superintendent of public
15 instruction has approved that the plan is consistent with federal
16 guidelines, the local school district must submit its required action
17 plan to the state board of education for approval.

18 (2) A required action plan must include all of the following:

19 (a) Implementation of one of the four federal intervention models
20 required for the receipt of a federal school improvement grant, for
21 those persistently lowest-achieving schools that the district will be
22 focusing on for required action. However, a district may not establish
23 a charter school under a federal intervention model without express
24 legislative authority. The intervention models are the turnaround,
25 restart, school closure, and transformation models. The intervention
26 model selected must address the concerns raised in the academic
27 performance audit and be intended to improve student performance to
28 allow a school district to be removed from the list of districts
29 designated as a required action district by the state board of
30 education within three years of implementation of the plan;

31 (b) Submission of an application for a federal school improvement
32 grant or a grant from other federal funds for school improvement to the
33 superintendent of public instruction;

34 (c) A budget that provides for adequate resources to implement the
35 federal model selected and any other requirements of the plan;

36 (d) A description of the changes in the district's or school's
37 existing policies, structures, agreements, processes, and practices

1 that are intended to attain significant achievement gains for all
2 students enrolled in the school and how the district intends to address
3 the findings of the academic performance audit; and

4 (e) Identification of the measures that the school district will
5 use in assessing student achievement at a school identified as a
6 persistently lowest-achieving school, which include improving
7 mathematics and reading student achievement and graduation rates as
8 defined by the office of the superintendent of public instruction that
9 enable the school to no longer be identified as a persistently lowest-
10 achieving school.

11 (3)(a) For any district designated for required action, the parties
12 to any collective bargaining agreement negotiated, renewed, or extended
13 under chapter 41.59 or 41.56 RCW after June 10, 2010, must reopen the
14 agreement, or negotiate an addendum, if needed, to make changes to
15 terms and conditions of employment that are necessary to implement a
16 required action plan. For any district applying to participate in a
17 collaborative schools for innovation and success pilot project under
18 section 4 of this act, the parties to any collective bargaining
19 agreement negotiated, renewed, or extended under chapter 41.59 or 41.56
20 RCW after the effective date of this section must reopen the agreement,
21 or negotiate an addendum, if needed, to make changes to terms and
22 conditions of employment that are necessary to implement an innovation
23 and success plan.

24 (b) If the school district and the employee organizations are
25 unable to agree on the terms of an addendum or modification to an
26 existing collective bargaining agreement, the parties, including all
27 labor organizations affected under the required action plan, shall
28 request the public employment relations commission to, and the
29 commission shall, appoint an employee of the commission to act as a
30 mediator to assist in the resolution of a dispute between the school
31 district and the employee organizations. Beginning in 2011, and each
32 year thereafter, mediation shall commence no later than April 15th.
33 All mediations held under this section shall include the employer and
34 representatives of all affected bargaining units.

35 (c) If the executive director of the public employment relations
36 commission, upon the recommendation of the assigned mediator, finds
37 that the employer and any affected bargaining unit are unable to reach
38 agreement following a reasonable period of negotiations and mediation,

1 but by no later than May 15th of the year in which mediation occurred,
2 the executive director shall certify any disputed issues for a decision
3 by the superior court in the county where the school district is
4 located. The issues for determination by the superior court must be
5 limited to the issues certified by the executive director.

6 (d) The process for filing with the court in this subsection (3)(d)
7 must be used in the case where the executive director certifies issues
8 for a decision by the superior court.

9 (i) The school district shall file a petition with the superior
10 court, by no later than May 20th of the same year in which the issues
11 were certified, setting forth the following:

12 (A) The name, address, and telephone number of the school district
13 and its principal representative;

14 (B) The name, address, and telephone number of the employee
15 organizations and their principal representatives;

16 (C) A description of the bargaining units involved;

17 (D) A copy of the unresolved issues certified by the executive
18 director for a final and binding decision by the court; and

19 (E) The academic performance audit that the office of the
20 superintendent of public instruction completed for the school district
21 in the case of a required action district, or the comprehensive needs
22 assessment in the case of a collaborative schools for innovation and
23 success pilot project.

24 (ii) Within seven days after the filing of the petition, each party
25 shall file with the court the proposal it is asking the court to order
26 be implemented in a required action plan or innovation and success plan
27 for the district for each issue certified by the executive director.
28 Contemporaneously with the filing of the proposal, a party must file a
29 brief with the court setting forth the reasons why the court should
30 order implementation of its proposal in the final plan.

31 (iii) Following receipt of the proposals and briefs of the parties,
32 the court must schedule a date and time for a hearing on the petition.
33 The hearing must be limited to argument of the parties or their counsel
34 regarding the proposals submitted for the court's consideration. The
35 parties may waive a hearing by written agreement.

36 (iv) The court must enter an order selecting the proposal for
37 inclusion in a required action plan that best responds to the issues
38 raised in the school district's academic performance audit, and allows

1 for the award of a federal school improvement grant or a grant from
2 other federal funds for school improvement to the district from the
3 office of the superintendent of public instruction to implement one of
4 the four federal intervention models. In the case of an innovation and
5 success plan, the court must enter an order selecting the proposal for
6 inclusion in the plan that best responds to the issues raised in the
7 school's comprehensive needs assessment. The court's decision must be
8 issued no later than June 15th of the year in which the petition is
9 filed and is final and binding on the parties; however the court's
10 decision is subject to appeal only in the case where it does not allow
11 the school district to implement a required action plan consistent with
12 the requirements for the award of a federal school improvement grant or
13 other federal funds for school improvement by the superintendent of
14 public instruction.

15 (e) Each party shall bear its own costs and attorneys' fees
16 incurred under this statute.

17 (f) Any party that proceeds with the process in this section after
18 knowledge that any provision of this section has not been complied with
19 and who fails to state its objection in writing is deemed to have
20 waived its right to object.

21 (4) All contracts entered into between a school district and an
22 employee must be consistent with this section and allow school
23 districts designated as required action districts to implement one of
24 the four federal models in a required action plan.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** Sections 1 through 10 of this act expire
26 June 30, 2019.

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