
SENATE BILL 5291

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Senators Pearson, McCoy, Warnick, Chase, Hobbs, Fain, Hasegawa, Palumbo, Wellman, and Hunt

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a pilot project to provide middle and
2 junior high school students strategic and intentional academic
3 support beyond the traditional school day to promote accountability
4 and responsibility and to ensure high school readiness; adding new
5 sections to chapter 43.330 RCW; creating new sections; making
6 appropriations; and providing an expiration date.

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

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature acknowledges that all
9 students do not learn in the same way or in the same amount of time.
10 The legislature recognizes that students in middle and junior high
11 schools would greatly benefit from additional academic support beyond
12 the traditional school day to meet or exceed grade level learning
13 standards, pass classes, and be ready for high school. The
14 legislature finds that learning labs provide a space within schools
15 beyond the traditional school day where students learn accountability
16 and responsibility through teaming with parents, completing homework,
17 monitoring classwork, passing classes and state tests, and gaining
18 mentorship as they work toward college and career readiness. The
19 legislature acknowledges that learning labs can also provide ongoing
20 classes for parents and guardians, with students focused on teaching
21 the skills needed to support academic success. The legislature

1 intends to create a pilot project that establishes learning labs in
2 middle and junior high schools to provide students the strategic and
3 intentional support they need to achieve academically.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.330
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 The definitions in this section apply throughout this section and
7 sections 3 through 5 of this act unless the context clearly requires
8 otherwise.

9 (1) "Academic support entity" means an entity that is exempt from
10 taxation under 26 U.S.C. Sec. 501(c)(3) of the federal internal
11 revenue code of 1986, as amended, as of the effective date of this
12 section, and that partners with public middle or junior high schools
13 to provide academic support to students beyond the traditional school
14 day within the schools. The academic support entity must have a
15 proven track record of successfully implementing learning labs and
16 have a program operation manual.

17 (2) "Lab director" means a part-time independent contractor who
18 has teaching experience or the equivalent. The lab director
19 supervises and is responsible for a learning lab. The lab director
20 plays an active role in supporting student achievement through
21 working with parents, monitoring grades, rewarding success, and
22 creating an academic culture.

23 (3) "Learning lab" means a program that provides additional
24 academic support to public middle or junior high school students
25 beyond the traditional school day. A learning lab is housed in a room
26 with computer access such as a library or computer room in a public
27 middle or junior high school building and is led by a lab director.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 43.330
29 RCW to read as follows:

30 (1) A pilot project is established to create learning labs in
31 public middle and junior high schools. The pilot project must start
32 at the beginning of the 2017-18 school year and end at the conclusion
33 of the 2019-20 school year.

34 (2) The purpose of the pilot project is to provide public middle
35 and junior high school students with an organized and consistent
36 learning environment to support them in meeting or exceeding grade-
37 level standards, obtaining the skills to be successful high school
38 students, and being well prepared for postsecondary education.

1 (3)(a) The department shall administer the pilot project. No more
2 than four percent of the funding provided for the pilot project may
3 be used by the department for administrative purposes.

4 (b) An academic support entity shall implement the pilot project
5 in up to ten public middle or junior high schools strategically
6 placed within the state.

7 (c) Public middle and junior high schools participating in the
8 pilot project must agree to partner with the academic support entity.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 43.330
10 RCW to read as follows:

11 (1) Each middle or junior high school participating in the pilot
12 project must have a learning lab that is open to students from after
13 school until 6:00 p.m. each day that school is in session unless this
14 time has to be adjusted for the school calendar.

15 (2) Each middle or junior high school participating in the pilot
16 project must have a lab director. The lab director must be contracted
17 with district input, trained, and supported by the academic support
18 entity that implements the pilot project under section 3(3) of this
19 act. This training must include the following topics:

- 20 (a) Involving parents and guardians;
- 21 (b) Monitoring grades and state test scores;
- 22 (c) Recognizing student academic improvement;
- 23 (d) Recruiting and training learning lab volunteers; and
- 24 (e) Teaming with students, parents, and teachers.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 43.330
26 RCW to read as follows:

27 The department, in collaboration with the academic support entity
28 that implements the pilot project under section 3(3) of this act,
29 shall submit a report regarding the pilot project to the governor,
30 the appropriate committees of the legislature, and the superintendent
31 of public instruction. The report shall be submitted by December 1,
32 2020, and must include a recommendation on whether the pilot project
33 should be continued, expanded, or discontinued.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** This act may be known and cited as the
35 accountability, responsibility, academic achievement, and opportunity
36 act.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** (1) The sum of six hundred thousand
2 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for
3 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018, from the general fund to the
4 department of commerce for the purposes of this act.

5 (2) The sum of six hundred thousand dollars, or as much thereof
6 as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending June
7 30, 2019, from the general fund to the department of commerce for the
8 purposes of this act.

9 (3) The sum of six hundred thousand dollars, or as much thereof
10 as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending June
11 30, 2020, from the general fund to the department of commerce for the
12 purposes of this act.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** Sections 1 through 6 of this act expire
14 June 30, 2021.

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