
SENATE BILL 6020

State of Washington 62nd Legislature 2011 2nd Special Session

By Senators Rolfes, Hewitt, and McAuliffe

1 AN ACT Relating to waivers from the one hundred eighty-day school
2 year requirement; and amending RCW 28A.305.141.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.305.141 and 2009 c 543 s 2 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) In addition to waivers authorized under RCW 28A.305.140 and
7 28A.655.180, the state board of education may grant waivers from the
8 requirement for a one hundred eighty-day school year under RCW
9 28A.150.220 (~~and 28A.150.250~~) to school districts that propose to
10 operate one or more schools on a flexible calendar for purposes of
11 economy and efficiency as provided in this section. The requirement
12 under RCW 28A.150.220 that school districts offer an annual average
13 instructional hour offering of at least one thousand hours shall not be
14 waived.

15 (2) A school district seeking a waiver under this section must
16 submit an application that includes:

17 (a) A proposed calendar for the school day and school year that
18 demonstrates how the instructional hour requirement will be maintained;

1 (b) An explanation and estimate of the economies and efficiencies
2 to be gained from compressing the instructional hours into fewer than
3 one hundred eighty days;

4 (c) An explanation of how monetary savings from the proposal will
5 be redirected to support student learning;

6 (d) A summary of comments received at one or more public hearings
7 on the proposal and how concerns will be addressed;

8 (e) An explanation of the impact on students who rely upon free and
9 reduced-price school child nutrition services and the impact on the
10 ability of the child nutrition program to operate an economically
11 independent program;

12 (f) An explanation of the impact on the ability to recruit and
13 retain employees in education support positions;

14 (g) An explanation of the impact on students whose parents work
15 during the missed school day; and

16 (h) Other information that the state board of education may request
17 to assure that the proposed flexible calendar will not adversely affect
18 student learning.

19 (3) The state board of education shall adopt criteria to evaluate
20 waiver requests. No more than five districts may be granted waivers.
21 Except as provided in subsection (5) of this section, waivers may be
22 granted for up to three years. After each school year, the state board
23 of education shall analyze empirical evidence to determine whether the
24 reduction is affecting student learning. If the state board of
25 education determines that student learning is adversely affected, the
26 school district shall discontinue the flexible calendar as soon as
27 possible but not later than the beginning of the next school year after
28 the determination has been made. All waivers expire August 31, 2014.

29 (a) Two of the five waivers granted under this subsection shall be
30 granted to school districts with student populations of less than one
31 hundred fifty students.

32 (b) Three of the five waivers granted under this subsection shall
33 be granted to school districts with student populations of between one
34 hundred fifty-one and five hundred students.

35 (4) The state board of education shall examine the waivers granted
36 under this section and make a recommendation to the education
37 committees of the legislature by December 15, 2013, regarding whether
38 the waiver program should be continued, modified, or allowed to

1 terminate. This recommendation should focus on whether the program
2 resulted in improved student learning as demonstrated by empirical
3 evidence. Such evidence includes, but is not limited to: Improved
4 scores on the ((Washington)) statewide student assessment ((of student
5 learning)), results of the dynamic indicators of basic early literacy
6 skills, student grades, and attendance.

7 (5) For school districts that received an initial waiver under this
8 section that will expire before August 31, 2014, waivers must be
9 extended until August 31, 2014, unless the state board's annual review
10 determines that student learning has been adversely affected by the
11 waiver.

12 (6) This section expires August 31, 2014.

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