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HOUSE BILL 1521

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State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

**By** Representatives Maxwell, Haigh, Sullivan, Pettigrew, Santos, Kenney, Lias, Frockt, Jacks, Clibborn, Probst, Sells, Lytton, Goodman, Orwall, Van De Wege, Green, Hunt, McCoy, Ladenburg, Billig, Seaquist, Fitzgibbon, Carlyle, and Jenkins

Read first time 01/25/11. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to recognizing Washington innovation schools;  
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 Washington  
6 has a long history of providing legal, financial, and political support  
7 for a wide range of innovative programs and initiatives and that these  
8 can and do operate successfully in public schools through the currently  
9 authorized governance structure of locally elected boards of directors  
10 of school districts.

11 (2) Examples of innovation schools can be found all across the  
12 state including, but not limited to:

13 (a) The Vancouver school of arts and academics that offers students  
14 beginning in sixth grade the opportunity to immerse themselves in the  
15 full range of the arts, including dance, music, theater, literary arts,  
16 visual arts, and moving image arts, as well as all levels of core  
17 academic courses;

18 (b) Thornton Creek elementary school in Seattle, an award-winning

1 parent-initiated learning option based on the expeditionary learning  
2 outward bound model;

3 (c) The technology access foundation academy, a unique public-  
4 private partnership with the Federal Way school district that offers a  
5 rigorous and relevant curriculum through project-based learning, full  
6 integration of technology, and a small learning community intended to  
7 provide middle and high school students the opportunity for success in  
8 school and college;

9 (d) Talbot Hill elementary school in Renton, where students  
10 participate in a micro-society program that includes selecting a  
11 government, conducting business and encouraging entrepreneurialism, and  
12 providing community services such as banking, newspaper, post office,  
13 and courts;

14 (e) The Tacoma school of the arts, where sophomores through seniors  
15 form a cohesive, full-time learning community to study the full range  
16 of humanities, mathematics, science, and language as well as build a  
17 broad foundation in all forms of the arts, culminating with an in-depth  
18 senior arts project that showcases each student's talent and interest;

19 (f) The SPRINT program at Shaw middle school in Spokane, an  
20 alternative learning community for students in seventh and eighth grade  
21 proposed and created by a group of parents who wish to be very actively  
22 involved in their students' education;

23 (g) Puesta del sol elementary school in Bellevue, offering a  
24 diverse multicultural program and Spanish language immersion beginning  
25 in kindergarten;

26 (h) The Washington national guard youth challenge program operated  
27 in collaboration with the Bremerton school district that offers high-  
28 risk youth a rigorous and structured residential program that builds  
29 students' academic, social, and emotional skills, and physical fitness  
30 while providing up to one year of high school credits toward  
31 graduation;

32 (i) The Lincoln center program at Lincoln high school in Tacoma, an  
33 extended day program that has virtually eliminated the academic  
34 achievement gap and significantly boosted attendance and test scores  
35 for racially diverse, low-income, and highly mobile students;

36 (j) Delta high school, a science, technology, engineering, and  
37 math-focused school option for students in the Tri-Cities operating in

1 cooperation with three school districts, the regional skill center,  
2 local colleges and universities, and the business community; and

3 (k) Aviation high school in the Highline school district, offering  
4 a project-based curriculum and learning environment centered on an  
5 aviation and aeronautics theme with strong business and community  
6 support.

7 (3) Therefore, the legislature intends to encourage additional  
8 innovation schools by disseminating information about current models  
9 and recognizing the effort and commitment that goes into their creation  
10 and operation.

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

13 (1) The legislature finds that innovation schools accomplish the  
14 following objectives:

15 (a) Provide students and parents with a diverse array of  
16 educational options;

17 (b) Promote active and meaningful parent and community involvement  
18 and partnership with local schools;

19 (c) Serve as laboratories for educational experimentation and  
20 innovation;

21 (d) Respond and adapt to different styles, approaches, and  
22 objectives of learning;

23 (e) Hold students and educators to high expectations and standards;  
24 and

25 (f) Encourage and facilitate bold, creative, and innovative  
26 educational ideas.

27 (2) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall  
28 develop basic criteria and a streamlined review process for identifying  
29 Washington innovation schools. Any public school may be nominated by  
30 a community, organization, school district, or through self-nomination  
31 to be designated as a Washington innovation school. If the office of  
32 the superintendent of public instruction finds that the school meets  
33 the criteria, the school shall receive a designation as a Washington  
34 innovation school. Within available funds, the office shall develop a  
35 logo, certificate, and other recognition strategies to encourage and  
36 highlight the accomplishments of innovation schools.

1           (3) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall  
2 create a page on the office web site to highlight examples of  
3 Washington innovation schools that includes links to research  
4 literature and national best practices, as well as summary information  
5 and links to the web sites of Washington innovation schools. The  
6 office is encouraged to offer an educational administrator intern the  
7 opportunity to create the web page as a project toward completion of  
8 his or her administrator certificate. The office shall publicize the  
9 Washington innovation school designation and encourage schools,  
10 communities, and school districts to access the web site and create  
11 additional models of innovation.

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