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SENATE BILL 5667

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State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Senators Tom, Litzow, Hobbs, and King

Read first time 02/03/11. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to recruiting, preparing, and empowering school  
2 officials and holding them accountable; amending RCW 28A.400.100;  
3 adding new sections to chapter 28A.410 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that a growing  
6 body of research indicates that successful school leadership plays a  
7 highly significant role in improving student learning. School  
8 leadership is second only to classroom instruction among all school-  
9 related factors that contribute to what students learn in school. The  
10 role of the school leader has progressively shifted from building  
11 manager to instructional leader. Effective school leaders create  
12 vision, develop and support teachers and school staff, and strengthen  
13 school culture. Leadership also involves direction-setting, management  
14 of personnel and resources, and redesigning the organization when  
15 necessary. Principals should be held accountable for these leadership  
16 qualities.

17 (2) Therefore, the legislature intends to encourage highly capable  
18 individuals with qualities of leadership to become principals through  
19 field-based, rigorous, but flexible preparation programs offered in

1 close collaboration with school districts. The legislature also  
2 intends to encourage school districts to provide principals with  
3 increased decision-making authority, including over personnel decisions  
4 and allocation of financial resources. Finally, the legislature  
5 intends to hold principals accountable to demonstrate the qualities  
6 essential to lead a school.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The professional educator standards  
8 board shall establish a residency provisional principal certification  
9 as provided under this section and sections 3 through 6 of this act.

10 (2) Applicants for residency provisional principal certification  
11 must:

12 (a) Document professional managerial and leadership experience that  
13 meets the standards established by the professional educator standards  
14 board under this section;

15 (b) Complete a record check as required under RCW 28A.410.010;

16 (c) Have been admitted to an alternative route principal  
17 certification program approved under section 6 of this act; and

18 (d) Be recommended for certification by a school district  
19 superintendent as provided under section 3 of this act.

20 (3)(a) The professional educator standards board shall adopt  
21 standards that define a scope and level of professional managerial and  
22 leadership experience for residency provisional principal certification  
23 that include at a minimum:

24 (i) Strategic planning;

25 (ii) Supervision and evaluation of personnel;

26 (iii) Budgeting and allocation of resources; and

27 (iv) Employee professional development.

28 (b) The standards must also include a consistent record of  
29 satisfactory performance in previous employment.

30 (c) The managerial and leadership experience for residency  
31 provisional principal certification is not required to have occurred in  
32 a school setting.

33 (4) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall  
34 review the qualifications of applicants and recommendations for  
35 certification submitted by school district superintendents. If the  
36 office determines that the requirements of this section have been met,  
37 the office shall issue a residency provisional principal certificate.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.**    (1) School district superintendents may  
2 recommend candidates for residency provisional principal certification.

3        (2) Before recommending a candidate for certification, a school  
4 district superintendent must:

5        (a) Conduct a publicly announced search for the principalship of a  
6 specific school and accept applications from individuals who are  
7 seeking residency provisional principal certificates and from  
8 individuals who hold continuing, residency, or professional principal  
9 certificates issued by the professional educator standards board;

10       (b) Verify that the candidate meets the standards adopted by the  
11 professional educator standards board under section 2 of this act; and

12       (c) Offer the candidate the principalship of the school, contingent  
13 on the candidate receiving residency provisional principal  
14 certification.

15       NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 4.**    (1) The holder of a residency provisional  
16 principal certificate must be enrolled in an alternative route  
17 principal certification program approved under section 6 of this act.

18       (2) The holder of a residency provisional principal certificate may  
19 serve as a school principal only in one school district for not more  
20 than three years.

21       (3) Residency provisional principal certificates expire:

22       (a) After three years; or

23       (b) If the holder's employment with the school district is  
24 terminated.

25       NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 5.**    The office of the superintendent of public  
26 instruction shall issue a residency principal certificate to a holder  
27 of a residency provisional principal certificate if the certificate  
28 holder has successfully completed an alternative route principal  
29 certification program approved under section 6 of this act.

30       NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 6.**    (1) The professional educator standards  
31 board shall adopt standards for approval of alternative route principal  
32 certification programs, which may be offered by higher education  
33 institutions or nonhigher education program providers.

34       (2) To receive approval to offer an alternative route principal  
35 certification program, a program provider must:

1 (a) Operate the program in partnership with one or more  
2 participating school districts;

3 (b) Design, develop, and use a principal development plan for each  
4 candidate. The plan must specify the coursework and training required  
5 of each candidate and must be developed by comparing the candidate's  
6 prior experience and coursework with the performance standards for  
7 residency principal certification. The alternative route program may  
8 give significant weight to a candidate's prior experience;

9 (c) Require candidates to demonstrate competencies in the knowledge  
10 and skills required for residency principal certification as adopted by  
11 the professional educator standards board;

12 (d) Provide intensive mentoring of a minimum of one-half of a  
13 school year for candidates, and an additional significant amount of  
14 time if necessary, progressing to increasingly less intensive  
15 monitoring and assistance as the candidate demonstrates the skills  
16 necessary to manage and lead a school; and

17 (e) Demonstrate a record of success in principal preparation and  
18 certification. If the program provider has not previously offered a  
19 principal preparation program, the provider may submit a record of  
20 success in preparation and certification of other educators and  
21 evidence of appropriate knowledge and experience of the faculty and  
22 instructors in the proposed principal certification program.

23 (3) The professional educator standards board may approve an  
24 alternative route principal certification program under this section  
25 for up to five years.

26 **Sec. 7.** RCW 28A.400.100 and 2002 c 78 s 1 are each amended to read  
27 as follows:

28 (1) School districts may employ public school principals and/or  
29 vice principals to supervise the operation and management of the school  
30 to which they are assigned. Such persons shall hold valid  
31 administrative certificates and, except for persons certificated under  
32 sections 4 and 5 of this act, shall hold or have held either valid  
33 teacher certificates or valid educational staff associate certificates.  
34 Persons who hold or have held valid educational staff associate  
35 certificates must also have demonstrated successful school-based  
36 experience in an instructional role with students. Persons whose

1 certificates were revoked, suspended, or surrendered may not be  
2 employed as public school principals or vice principals.

3 (2) In addition to such other duties as shall be prescribed by law  
4 and by the job description adopted by the board of directors, each  
5 principal shall:

6 ~~((+1))~~ (a) Assume administrative authority, responsibility and  
7 instructional leadership, under the supervision of the school district  
8 superintendent, and in accordance with the policies of the school  
9 district board of directors, for the planning, management, supervision  
10 and evaluation of the educational program of the attendance area for  
11 which he or she is responsible~~((+))~~;

12 ~~((+2))~~ (b) Submit recommendations to the school district  
13 superintendent regarding appointment, assignment, promotion, transfer  
14 and dismissal of all personnel assigned to the attendance area for  
15 which he or she is responsible~~((+))~~;

16 ~~((+3))~~ (c) Submit recommendations to the school district  
17 superintendent regarding the fiscal needs to maintain and improve the  
18 instructional program of the attendance area for which he or she is  
19 responsible~~((+))~~; and

20 ~~((+4))~~ (d) Assume administrative authority and responsibility for  
21 the supervision, counseling and discipline of pupils in the attendance  
22 area for which he or she is responsible.

23 (3) In return for the increased accountability for performance  
24 expected under RCW 28A.405.245, school district directors and  
25 superintendents are encouraged to provide principals with increased  
26 autonomy and authority to manage and lead the schools to which they are  
27 assigned including, but not limited to, decision-making authority  
28 regarding personnel and budgets.

29 NEW SECTION. Sec. 8. Sections 2 through 6 of this act are each  
30 added to chapter 28A.410 RCW.

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