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SENATE BILL 5726

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State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Senators Harper, McAuliffe, Litzow, Tom, and Hobbs

Read first time 02/09/11. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to innovation schools; adding a new section to  
2 chapter 28A.300 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that Washington  
5 has a long history of providing support for a wide range of innovative  
6 schools and programs and that these can and do operate successfully in  
7 public school districts under the authority of locally elected boards  
8 of directors.

9 (2) Examples of innovation schools and programs can be found across  
10 the state including, but not limited to:

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

16 (b) Thornton Creek elementary school, in the Seattle school  
17 district, offers a parent-initiated learning option based on the  
18 expeditionary learning outward bound model;

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

7 (d) Talbot Hill elementary school, in the Renton school district,  
8 enables students to participate in a microsociety program that includes  
9 selecting a government, conducting business and encouraging  
10 entrepreneurialism, and providing community services such as banking,  
11 newspaper, post office, and courts;

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

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

21 (g) Puesta del Sol elementary school, in the Bellevue school  
22 district, offers a diverse multicultural program and Spanish language  
23 immersion beginning in kindergarten;

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

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

35 (j) Delta high school, a science, technology, engineering, and  
36 mathematics-focused school option for students in the Tri-Cities,  
37 operates in cooperation with three school districts, the regional skill  
38 center, local colleges and universities, and the business community;

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

5 (l) Environmental and adventure school, in the Lake Washington  
6 school district, focuses on environmental and adventure education with  
7 a curriculum built around the theme of the interdependence of people  
8 and their environment, allowing students to explore this theme through  
9 outdoor education sessions and stewardship projects in partnership with  
10 community organizations;

11 (m) Explorer community school, in the Lake Washington school  
12 district, integrates parents, who each work a half-day in the classroom  
13 every week to forge a learning partnership, provides opportunities for  
14 each child to realize his or her own individual potential, and fosters  
15 an atmosphere of cooperation and trust;

16 (n) Futures school, in the Lake Washington school district, offers  
17 an alternative high school experience in a smaller environment and  
18 gives students a jump-start with scheduling flexibility and accelerated  
19 education to earn additional credits;

20 (o) International community school, in the Lake Washington school  
21 district, provides educational continuity and long-term relationships  
22 for its students with an integrated six-year course of study so that  
23 each year's knowledge builds upon the previous years' foundation and  
24 incorporates a global education that draws from sources around the  
25 world;

26 (p) The international school, in the Bellevue school district,  
27 focuses on the phenomenon of globalization, teaches the principles of  
28 global citizenship, involves the community, students, parents, faculty,  
29 and administration, and encourages students to accept their  
30 responsibility as members of the community through active service;

31 (q) Northstar junior high school, in the Lake Washington school  
32 district, limits enrollment to thirty students per grade level to give  
33 personalized attention that focuses on moral development, nurturing  
34 individual talents, and encouraging academic growth;

35 (r) The Tacoma science and math institute, in the Tacoma school  
36 district and located at Point Defiance Park, integrates environmental  
37 and marine studies through community partnerships and hands-on learning

1 with classes at the marine center, zoo, and aquarium as part of the  
2 schedule;

3 (s) Stella schola, a middle school in the Lake Washington school  
4 district, exposes students to classic literature and Latin courses  
5 through personalized learning environments, and where students learn  
6 through historical themes to make better choices and decisions in the  
7 future;

8 (t) The technology education and literacy in schools program, in  
9 the Issaquah school district, partners with Microsoft employees who  
10 mentor students and teach science, technology, engineering, and  
11 mathematics classes in web design and computer science;

12 (u) The biotech pathway partnership program, at Glacier Peak high  
13 school in the Snohomish school district, offers students a state-of-  
14 the-art opportunity to prepare for work in the biotechnology field and  
15 was created in partnership with community entities such as Fred  
16 Hutchison cancer research center, Seattle biomedical research  
17 institute, University of Washington, and amgen;

18 (v) The machining pathways program, at Snohomish high school in the  
19 Snohomish school district, immerses students in a computer-based, high-  
20 technology machining, programming, and engineering design course and  
21 allows students to earn credits in advanced manufacturing technology  
22 through Everett Community College;

23 (w) The big picture school, in the Bellevue school district, will  
24 feature a small, personalized environment, project-based college  
25 preparatory curriculum, technology integration, and a network of local  
26 partnerships offering college and career preparation (opening September  
27 2011);

28 (x) The Lt. General William H. Harrison preparatory school, a sixth  
29 to twelfth grade choice school in the Clover Park school district,  
30 focuses on high academic rigor and accountability enriched through  
31 technology, personal projects, and partnership with the Clover Park  
32 Technical College; and

33 (y) The lighthouse cooperative, a kindergarten to fifth grade  
34 community in the Everett school district, provides opportunities for  
35 families to work with teachers to inspire creativity, active  
36 experimenting, and independent thinking.

37 (3) Therefore, the legislature intends to encourage additional

1 innovation schools and programs by disseminating information about  
2 current models and recognizing the effort and commitment that goes into  
3 their creation and operation.

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

6 (1) The legislature finds that innovation schools and programs  
7 accomplish the following objectives:

8 (a) Provide students and parents with a diverse array of  
9 educational options;

10 (b) Promote active and meaningful parent and community involvement  
11 and partnership with local schools;

12 (c) Serve as laboratories for educational experimentation and  
13 innovation;

14 (d) Respond and adapt to different styles, approaches, and  
15 objectives of learning;

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

17 (f) Maintain accountability to the citizens through the locally  
18 elected school directors; and

19 (g) Encourage and facilitate bold, creative, and innovative  
20 educational ideas.

21 (2) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall  
22 develop basic criteria and a streamlined review process for identifying  
23 Washington innovation schools and programs. Any public school may be  
24 nominated by a community, organization, school district, or through  
25 self-nomination to be designated as a Washington innovation school or  
26 program. If the office of the superintendent of public instruction  
27 finds that the school or program meets the criteria, the school or  
28 program shall receive a designation as a Washington innovation school  
29 or program.

30 (3) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall:

31 (a) Create a page on its web site to highlight examples of  
32 Washington innovation schools and programs that includes links to  
33 research literature and national best practices, as well as summary  
34 information and links to the web sites of Washington innovation  
35 schools. The office is encouraged to offer an educational  
36 administrator intern the opportunity to create the web page as a  
37 project toward completion of his or her administrator certificate; and

1           (b) Publicize the Washington innovation school designation and  
2 encourage schools, communities, and school districts to access the web  
3 site and create additional models of innovation.

4           (4) The office of the superintendent of public instruction is  
5 encouraged to identify annually ten innovation schools or programs that  
6 exemplify the values of innovation schools and programs.

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