
SENATE BILL 5026

State of Washington 63rd Legislature 2013 Regular Session

By Senators Hasegawa and Kohl-Welles

Read first time 01/15/13. Referred to Committee on Higher Education .

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a peer mentoring program; amending RCW
2 28B.12.055; and adding a new chapter to Title 28B RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that peer mentoring
5 programs, such as the pilot program launched in fall 2009 at Western
6 Washington University, provide tangible and long-lasting benefits for
7 all elementary students, especially low-income students, students of
8 color, and first generation students, by encouraging school attendance,
9 setting aspirations for graduation from high school, increasing
10 awareness of life options, and inspiring dreams of a higher education.
11 The legislature further finds that, for the college student mentors,
12 the experience provides a valuable opportunity to increase interest in
13 career opportunities in the counseling and teaching professions. The
14 legislature thus intends to expand the peer mentoring program across
15 the state.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** By September 1, 2014, the six four-year
17 institutions of higher education shall create and implement a peer
18 mentoring program modeled after the pilot program launched in fall 2009

1 at Western Washington University. Working with the state board for
2 community and technical colleges, each of the six institutions shall
3 identify one or more community or technical colleges with which to
4 partner in the program.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The goals of the peer mentoring program are
6 to:

7 (1) Encourage at-risk elementary school students to complete high
8 school and attend college, boosting the percentage of Washington
9 students who continue on to college;

10 (2) Provide positive role models for at-risk students and allow
11 college students the opportunity to perform community service;

12 (3) Strengthen relationships between the communities, the
13 universities, the community colleges, and the public schools, and area
14 youth;

15 (4) Introduce at-risk students to college and provide them an
16 opportunity to experience their public colleges and universities; and

17 (5) Increase the number of youth who view going to college as both
18 necessary and achievable.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Each of the six four-year institutions of
20 higher education shall:

21 (1) Recruit college students interested in serving as mentors to
22 elementary school students;

23 (2) Identify one or more local elementary schools with demonstrated
24 need for a peer mentoring program;

25 (3) Develop a curriculum to train college student mentors, for
26 which college-level credit can be granted;

27 (4) Develop any necessary contracts or interagency agreements to
28 facilitate program implementation;

29 (5) Provide ongoing support and oversight of the program;

30 (6) Solicit grants, awards, and gifts from individuals, businesses,
31 agencies, and foundations;

32 (7) Provide community outreach and publicity for the program;

33 (8) Develop appropriate outcome measures and evaluate the program
34 at regular intervals; and

35 (9) Together with its community and technical college partners, and
36 in close collaboration with other community and institutional partners,

1 submit a report to the legislature by December 1, 2015, and December
2 1st of each odd-numbered year thereafter, that includes an evaluation
3 of the program and outcome measurements.

4 **Sec. 5.** RCW 28B.12.055 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 11 s 145 are each
5 amended to read as follows:

6 (1) Within existing resources, the office of student financial
7 assistance shall establish the work-study opportunity grant for high-
8 demand occupations, a competitive grant program to encourage job
9 placements in high-demand fields. The office shall award grants to
10 eligible institutions of higher education that have developed a
11 partnership with a proximate organization willing to host work-study
12 placements. Partner organizations may be nonprofit organizations, for-
13 profit firms, or public agencies. Eligible institutions of higher
14 education must verify that all job placements will last for a minimum
15 of one academic quarter or one academic semester, depending on the
16 system used by the eligible institution of higher education.

17 (2) The office may adopt rules to identify high-demand fields for
18 purposes of this section. The legislature recognizes that the high-
19 demand fields identified by the office may differ in different regions
20 of the state.

21 (3) The office may award grants to eligible institutions of higher
22 education that cover both student wages and program administration,
23 including institutions participating in the peer mentoring program in
24 chapter 28B.--- RCW (the new chapter created in section 6 of this act).

25 (4) The office shall develop performance benchmarks regarding
26 program success including, but not limited to, the number of students
27 served, the amount of employer contributions, and the number of
28 participating high-demand employers.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 1 through 4 of this act constitute
30 a new chapter in Title 28B RCW.

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