
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5328

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2013 Regular Session

By Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education (originally sponsored by Senators Litzow, Hobbs, Dammeier, Hatfield, Baumgartner, Roach, Hill, Braun, Shin, and Tom)

READ FIRST TIME 02/07/13.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a school-grading program that relies on
2 the accountability index; and adding a new section to chapter 28A.655
3 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.655
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) The primary purposes of a school-grading program are to enhance
8 the learning gains of all students, provide feedback to schools and
9 school districts, supply parents and community members with
10 understandable information about their schools, and provide information
11 regarding school accountability and recognition.

12 (2) Beginning with the 2013-14 school year, the state board of
13 education must implement a school-grading program that identifies
14 schools as having one of the following grades:

- 15 (a) "A" for schools making excellent progress;
16 (b) "B" for schools making above average progress;
17 (c) "C" for schools making satisfactory progress;
18 (d) "D" for schools making less than satisfactory progress; and
19 (e) "F" for schools failing to make adequate progress.

1 (3) Each school that has students who are tested using the
2 assessments administered statewide in reading, writing, mathematics,
3 and science required under RCW 28A.655.061, 28A.655.066, and
4 28A.655.070 shall earn a school grade, except as follows:

5 (a) To protect the privacy of students, schools, and districts
6 testing fewer than ten students in a grade level; and

7 (b) A school that serves any combination of students in
8 kindergarten through grade three shall not earn a school grade based on
9 test scores because its students are not tested. Such schools shall be
10 included in the school-grading program by earning the grade designation
11 of the K-3 feeder-pattern school identified by the office of the
12 superintendent of public instruction and verified by the school
13 district. A school feeder pattern exists if at least sixty percent of
14 the students in the school serving a combination of students in
15 kindergarten through grade three are scheduled to be assigned to the
16 graded school. The school with students in kindergarten through grade
17 three will earn the grade earned by its feeder-pattern school.

18 (4)(a) A school's grade shall be determined by the state board of
19 education using the accountability index, cooperatively developed under
20 RCW 28A.657.110 by the state board of education and the office of the
21 superintendent of public instruction. The index must measure the
22 increase in student achievement on the statewide administered
23 assessments in reading, writing, mathematics, and science; and the
24 reduction in student achievement gaps. The index may include other
25 student outcome measurements.

26 (b) For schools with any combination of grades nine, ten, eleven,
27 and twelve, at least fifty percent of a school's grade shall be
28 determined using the accountability index and the remaining percentage
29 shall be based on the following factors, if the factors are not already
30 included in the accountability index:

31 (i) The high school graduation rate of the school as calculated by
32 the office of the superintendent of public instruction;

33 (ii) As valid data becomes available, the performance and
34 participation of the school's students in AP courses, international
35 baccalaureate courses, and dual enrollment courses; and student
36 achievement of national industry certification;

37 (iii) Postsecondary readiness of all of the school's on-time
38 graduates as measured by the SAT, the ACT, or a placement test; and

1 (iv) The high school graduation rate of at-risk students.

2 (5)(a) The state board of education shall adopt appropriate
3 criteria for each school grade.

4 (b) The criteria must give added weight to student achievement in
5 reading.

6 (c) Schools earning a grade of "C," or higher must demonstrate that
7 at least half of the students in the school who are in the lowest
8 twenty-fifth percentile in reading and mathematics on the statewide
9 administered assessments are making adequate progress; if not, the
10 school letter grade is decreased by one letter.

11 (d) For schools with any combination of grades nine, ten, eleven,
12 and twelve, the criteria for school grades must also give added weight
13 to the graduation rate of all eligible at-risk students. In order for
14 a high school to earn a grade of "A," the school must demonstrate that
15 its at-risk students are making adequate progress.

16 (6) The office of the superintendent of public instruction must
17 annually report each school district's grade to the governor and the
18 legislature. A school district's grade must be calculated using
19 student performance and learning gains data on statewide assessments
20 used for determining school grades under subsection (4) of this section
21 for each eligible student enrolled for a full school year in the
22 district. This calculation methodology captures information describing
23 each eligible student in the district who may have transferred among
24 schools within the district or who is enrolled in a school that does
25 not earn a grade.

26 (7) By August 1, 2014, the office of the superintendent of public
27 instruction shall adapt the model school performance report and the
28 agency web site originally developed under RCW 28A.655.110 to include
29 each school district's grade and each school's grade. Each school
30 district's and school's report card shall be published annually, with
31 the school and district grade history, by the agency on its web site.

32 (8) Each school district must include in its annual school
33 performance report required under RCW 28A.655.110 each school's grade
34 and must also include the school district's grade.

35 (9) For the purposes of this section, "at-risk students" means
36 students scoring at level one or level two on the eighth grade
37 statewide administered reading and mathematics assessment.

1 (10) The state board of education and the office of the
2 superintendent of public instruction shall adopt rules, as necessary,
3 to administer this section.

4 (11)(a) The school-grading program shall be a pilot program during
5 the 2013-14 school year. The office of the superintendent of public
6 instruction shall conduct the pilot program in five geographically
7 diverse school districts, including urban, rural, large, and small
8 districts.

9 (b) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
10 contract with an organization in Washington state that conducts and
11 disseminates action research, partners with state and local agencies
12 and organizations, and provides data services and support for school
13 and district improvement planning to conduct an independent evaluation
14 of the school-grading pilot program. The evaluation shall be submitted
15 to the office of the superintendent of public instruction, the
16 governor, and the legislature by December 1, 2014. The evaluation must
17 include recommendations on any necessary modifications, if any, to the
18 criteria or the process used to grade schools and districts.

19 (12) The state board of education and the office of the
20 superintendent of public instruction shall make all the modifications
21 recommended in the evaluation and implement the school-grading program
22 statewide in the 2014-15 school year.

23 (13) Beginning in 2015, any school district with at least one
24 school designated as an "F" school under the school-grading program
25 created by this act shall be designated a required action district and
26 subject to the provisions of chapter 28A.657 RCW. Any school districts
27 designated as a required action district under the authority of this
28 section shall receive state funding to support the implementation of a
29 required action plan.

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