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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5328**

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**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.

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