
SENATE BILL 6483

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2014 Regular Session

By Senators Keiser, Honeyford, Frockt, Dammeier, Billig, Hargrove, Kohl-Welles, Kline, and McAuliffe

Read first time 01/29/14. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a competitive grant program to provide
2 additional classroom space to support all-day kindergarten; and
3 amending RCW 28A.150.315.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.150.315 and 2012 c 51 s 1 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 (1) Beginning with the 2007-08 school year, funding for voluntary
8 all-day kindergarten programs shall be phased-in beginning with schools
9 with the highest poverty levels, defined as those schools with the
10 highest percentages of students qualifying for free and reduced-price
11 lunch support in the prior school year. During the 2011-2013 biennium,
12 funding shall continue to be phased-in each year until full statewide
13 implementation of all-day kindergarten is achieved in the 2017-18
14 school year. Once a school receives funding for the all-day
15 kindergarten program, that school shall remain eligible for funding in
16 subsequent school years regardless of changes in the school's
17 percentage of students eligible for free and reduced-price lunches as
18 long as other program requirements are fulfilled. Additionally,

1 schools receiving all-day kindergarten program support shall agree to
2 the following conditions:

3 (a) Provide at least a one thousand-hour instructional program;

4 (b) Provide a curriculum that offers a rich, varied set of
5 experiences that assist students in:

6 (i) Developing initial skills in the academic areas of reading,
7 mathematics, and writing;

8 (ii) Developing a variety of communication skills;

9 (iii) Providing experiences in science, social studies, arts,
10 health and physical education, and a world language other than English;

11 (iv) Acquiring large and small motor skills;

12 (v) Acquiring social and emotional skills including successful
13 participation in learning activities as an individual and as part of a
14 group; and

15 (vi) Learning through hands-on experiences;

16 (c) Establish learning environments that are developmentally
17 appropriate and promote creativity;

18 (d) Demonstrate strong connections and communication with early
19 learning community providers; and

20 (e) Participate in kindergarten program readiness activities with
21 early learning providers and parents.

22 (2)(a) It is the intent of the legislature that administration of
23 the Washington kindergarten inventory of developing skills as required
24 in this subsection (2) and RCW 28A.655.080 replace administration of
25 other assessments being required by school districts or that other
26 assessments only be administered if they seek to obtain information not
27 covered by the Washington kindergarten inventory of developing skills.

28 (b) In addition to the requirements in subsection (1) of this
29 section and to the extent funds are available, beginning with the 2011-
30 12 school year on a voluntary basis, schools must identify the skills,
31 knowledge, and characteristics of kindergarten students at the
32 beginning of the school year in order to support social-emotional,
33 physical, and cognitive growth and development of individual children;
34 support early learning provider and parent involvement; and inform
35 instruction. Kindergarten teachers shall administer the Washington
36 kindergarten inventory of developing skills, as directed by the
37 superintendent of public instruction in consultation with the
38 department of early learning and in collaboration with the

1 nongovernmental private-public partnership designated in RCW
2 43.215.070, and report the results to the superintendent. The
3 superintendent shall share the results with the director of the
4 department of early learning.

5 (c) School districts shall provide an opportunity for parents and
6 guardians to excuse their children from participation in the Washington
7 kindergarten inventory of developing skills.

8 (3) Subject to funds appropriated for this purpose, the
9 superintendent of public instruction shall designate one or more school
10 districts to serve as resources and examples of best practices in
11 designing and operating a high-quality all-day kindergarten program.
12 Designated school districts shall serve as lighthouse programs and
13 provide technical assistance to other school districts in the initial
14 stages of implementing an all-day kindergarten program. Examples of
15 topics addressed by the technical assistance include strategic
16 planning, developing the instructional program and curriculum, working
17 with early learning providers to identify students and communicate with
18 parents, and developing kindergarten program readiness activities.

19 (4)(a) The legislature recognizes that insufficient classroom space
20 has impeded the phase-in of state-funded all-day kindergarten specified
21 in this section even though the school construction assistance program
22 under chapter 28A.525 RCW has included all-day kindergarten in the
23 calculation of necessary classroom space since 2001. The legislature
24 intends to assist school districts in the phase-in of all-day
25 kindergarten with the competitive grant program described in this
26 subsection.

27 (b) The all-day kindergarten facility grant program must be
28 administered by the superintendent of public instruction in
29 consultation with an advisory committee. The advisory committee must
30 include three school district facility managers, one each from an
31 urban, suburban, and rural school district, selected by the
32 superintendent of public instruction, and four community members
33 selected by the governor representing parents and organizations
34 concerned with early education and student academic performance. The
35 superintendent of public instruction must develop grant application
36 materials in consultation with the advisory committee, must review
37 applications for accuracy and financial reasonableness, and must
38 administer awarded grants. The advisory committee must review

1 applications against the criteria specified in (d) of this subsection
2 and recommend a single rank-ordered list. The superintendent of public
3 instruction may modify the rank-ordered list received by the advisory
4 committee for inclusion in the agency's capital budget request, but
5 must also submit to the governor and fiscal committees of the
6 legislature the original ranking by the advisory committee with
7 explanations for any changes made to the ranking. The governor may use
8 the original list prepared by the advisory committee or may consider
9 any changes recommended by the office of the superintendent of public
10 instruction in preparing the governor's capital budget request.

11 (c) One hundred percent of project costs are eligible for
12 kindergarten classroom grants under this program for:

13 (i) Facilities owned by public school districts or public charter
14 schools;

15 (ii) Facilities built or modernized prior to 2003; and

16 (iii) Project costs for design, construction, purchase and
17 installation of modular buildings, project management, capitalized
18 equipment, and fixtures.

19 (d) The criteria listed in this subsection must be used to rank
20 grant requests. In applying these criteria, the advisory committee
21 should seek to recommend funding for projects that provide necessary
22 classroom space in districts furthest behind in implementing
23 state-funded all-day kindergarten, with the highest enrollment
24 percentages of students eligible for free and reduced-price school
25 lunches, in districts least able to provide the necessary classroom
26 space from local sources. The criteria are:

27 (i) The extent that implementing state-funded all-day kindergarten
28 is impeded by the lack of classroom space in the district as verified
29 by site visits by the office of the superintendent of public
30 instruction;

31 (ii) The kindergarten classroom space is needed in schools with the
32 highest free and reduced-price school lunch enrollment percentages; and

33 (iii) Economic conditions within the district that limit the
34 ability of the district to finance the necessary classroom space from
35 local sources.

36 (e) For the first competitive round of grant applications to be
37 considered for inclusion in the governor's capital budget request for
38 the 2015-2017 biennium, an expedited grant application and review

1 process must be conducted by the superintendent of public instruction
2 and the advisory committee. The first rank-ordered list of proposed
3 grants must be submitted to the office of financial management and the
4 appropriate committees of the legislature by October 30, 2014.
5 Following that first submission, the superintendent of public
6 instruction must prepare a biennial grant application cycle for
7 subsequent biennia.

8 (f) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
9 write rules to ensure new space added with funding provided by this
10 grant is included in the eligible inventory for the school construction
11 assistance program. Grant funds provided under this section must not
12 be counted as local match for the school construction assistance
13 program.

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