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SENATE BILL 6511

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State of Washington                      60th Legislature                      2008 Regular Session

By Senators Kastama, McAuliffe, Franklin, Rasmussen, and Oemig

Read first time 01/17/08.                      Referred to Committee on Economic  
Development, Trade & Management.

1            AN ACT Relating to quality public schools; and amending RCW  
2 28A.305.130.

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

4            **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.305.130 and 2006 c 263 s 102 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6            The purpose of the state board of education is to provide advocacy  
7 and strategic oversight of public education; implement a standards-  
8 based accountability system to improve student academic achievement;  
9 provide leadership in the creation of a system that personalizes  
10 education for each student and respects diverse cultures, abilities,  
11 and learning styles; and promote achievement of the goals of RCW  
12 28A.150.210. In addition to any other powers and duties as provided by  
13 law, the state board of education shall:

14            (1) Hold regularly scheduled meetings at such time and place within  
15 the state as the board shall determine and may hold such special  
16 meetings as may be deemed necessary for the transaction of public  
17 business;

18            (2) Form committees as necessary to effectively and efficiently  
19 conduct the work of the board;

1 (3) Seek advice from the public and interested parties regarding  
2 the work of the board;

3 (4) For purposes of statewide accountability, the board shall  
4 implement the Washington state quality award program and/or the  
5 Baldrige national quality program as the state accountability system  
6 for public schools and school districts. The board shall also take  
7 appropriate actions to ensure the following steps are addressed in the  
8 accountability system for public schools and school districts:

9 (a) Adopt and revise performance improvement goals in reading,  
10 writing, science, and mathematics, by subject and grade level, once  
11 assessments in these subjects are required statewide; academic and  
12 technical skills, as appropriate, in secondary career and technical  
13 education programs; and student attendance, as the board deems  
14 appropriate to improve student learning. The goals shall be consistent  
15 with student privacy protection provisions of RCW 28A.655.090(7) and  
16 shall not conflict with requirements contained in Title I of the  
17 federal elementary and secondary education act of 1965, or the  
18 requirements of the Carl D. Perkins vocational education act of 1998,  
19 each as amended. The goals may be established for all students,  
20 economically disadvantaged students, limited English proficient  
21 students, students with disabilities, and students from  
22 disproportionately academically underachieving racial and ethnic  
23 backgrounds. The board may establish school and school district goals  
24 addressing high school graduation rates and dropout reduction goals for  
25 students in grades seven through twelve. The board shall adopt the  
26 goals by rule. However, before each goal is implemented, the board  
27 shall present the goal to the education committees of the house of  
28 representatives and the senate for the committees' review and comment  
29 in a time frame that will permit the legislature to take statutory  
30 action on the goal if such action is deemed warranted by the  
31 legislature;

32 (b) Identify the scores students must achieve in order to meet the  
33 standard on the Washington assessment of student learning and, for high  
34 school students, to obtain a certificate of academic achievement. The  
35 board shall also determine student scores that identify levels of  
36 student performance below and beyond the standard. The board shall  
37 consider the incorporation of the standard error of measurement into  
38 the decision regarding the award of the certificates. The board shall

1 set such performance standards and levels in consultation with the  
2 superintendent of public instruction and after consideration of any  
3 recommendations that may be developed by any advisory committees that  
4 may be established for this purpose. The initial performance standards  
5 and any changes recommended by the board in the performance standards  
6 for the tenth grade assessment shall be presented to the education  
7 committees of the house of representatives and the senate by November  
8 30th of the school year in which the changes will take place to permit  
9 the legislature to take statutory action before the changes are  
10 implemented if such action is deemed warranted by the legislature. The  
11 legislature shall be advised of the initial performance standards and  
12 any changes made to the elementary level performance standards and the  
13 middle school level performance standards;

14 (c) Adopt objective, systematic criteria to identify successful  
15 schools and school districts and recommend to the superintendent of  
16 public instruction schools and districts to be recognized for two types  
17 of accomplishments, student achievement and improvements in student  
18 achievement. Recognition for improvements in student achievement shall  
19 include consideration of one or more of the following accomplishments:

20 (i) An increase in the percent of students meeting standards. The  
21 level of achievement required for recognition may be based on the  
22 achievement goals established by the legislature and by the board under  
23 (a) of this subsection;

24 (ii) Positive progress on an improvement index that measures  
25 improvement in all levels of the assessment; and

26 (iii) Improvements despite challenges such as high levels of  
27 mobility, poverty, English as a second language learners, and large  
28 numbers of students in special populations as measured by either the  
29 percent of students meeting the standard, or the improvement index.  
30 When determining the baseline year or years for recognizing individual  
31 schools, the board may use the assessment results from the initial  
32 years the assessments were administered, if doing so with individual  
33 schools would be appropriate;

34 (d) Adopt objective, systematic criteria to identify schools and  
35 school districts in need of assistance and those in which significant  
36 numbers of students persistently fail to meet state standards. In its  
37 deliberations, the board shall consider the use of all statewide  
38 mandated criterion-referenced and norm-referenced standardized tests;

1 (e) Identify schools and school districts in which state  
2 intervention measures will be needed and a range of appropriate  
3 intervention strategies after the legislature has authorized a set of  
4 intervention strategies. After the legislature has authorized a set of  
5 intervention strategies, at the request of the board, the  
6 superintendent shall intervene in the school or school district and  
7 take corrective actions. This chapter does not provide additional  
8 authority for the board or the superintendent of public instruction to  
9 intervene in a school or school district;

10 (f) Identify performance incentive systems that have improved or  
11 have the potential to improve student achievement;

12 (g) Annually review the assessment reporting system to ensure  
13 fairness, accuracy, timeliness, and equity of opportunity, especially  
14 with regard to schools with special circumstances and unique  
15 populations of students, and a recommendation to the superintendent of  
16 public instruction of any improvements needed to the system; and

17 (h) Include in the biennial report required under RCW 28A.305.035,  
18 information on the progress that has been made in achieving goals  
19 adopted by the board;

20 (5) Accredite, subject to such accreditation standards and  
21 procedures as may be established by the state board of education, all  
22 private schools that apply for accreditation, and approve, subject to  
23 the provisions of RCW 28A.195.010, private schools carrying out a  
24 program for any or all of the grades kindergarten through twelve:  
25 PROVIDED, That no private school may be approved that operates a  
26 kindergarten program only: PROVIDED FURTHER, That no private schools  
27 shall be placed upon the list of accredited schools so long as secret  
28 societies are knowingly allowed to exist among its students by school  
29 officials;

30 (6) Articulate with the institutions of higher education, workforce  
31 representatives, and early learning policymakers and providers to  
32 coordinate and unify the work of the public school system;

33 (7) Hire an executive director and an administrative assistant to  
34 reside in the office of the superintendent of public instruction for  
35 administrative purposes. Any other personnel of the board shall be  
36 appointed as provided by RCW 28A.300.020. The executive director,  
37 administrative assistant, and all but one of the other personnel of the

1 board are exempt from civil service, together with other staff as now  
2 or hereafter designated as exempt in accordance with chapter 41.06 RCW;  
3 and

4 (8) Adopt a seal that shall be kept in the office of the  
5 superintendent of public instruction.

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