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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6743**

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**State of Washington**

**60th Legislature**

**2008 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education (originally sponsored by Senators Rasmussen, McAuliffe, Tom, and Shin)

READ FIRST TIME 02/08/08.

1       AN ACT Relating to autism awareness instruction for teachers of  
2 students with autism; and adding a new section to chapter 28A.155 RCW.

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

4       NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.155  
5 RCW to read as follows:

6       (1) The office of the superintendent of public instruction, in  
7 consultation with the autism task force, and representatives from state  
8 and nonprofit agencies that promote autism awareness and provide  
9 programs and services for people with autism, shall develop autism  
10 awareness and training policy guidelines for schools to ensure that  
11 teachers responsible for autistic children are well-prepared and up-to-  
12 date on the most effective methods of teaching children with autism.

13       (2) The autism awareness and training policy guidelines shall  
14 ensure, but need not be limited to requiring that:

15       (a) A candidate for a Washington instructional certificate  
16 satisfactorily complete instruction in autism awareness and methods of  
17 teaching students with autism at an accredited institution of higher  
18 education; and

1 (b) All teachers not subject to (a) of this subsection be required  
2 to pursue instruction in autism awareness and methods for teaching  
3 students with autism by the 2010-11 school year as part of the  
4 professional development requirement established by the office of the  
5 superintendent of public instruction.

6 (3) By September 1, 2008, the professional educator standards board  
7 and the office of the superintendent of public instruction shall  
8 develop recommendations for autism awareness instruction and methods of  
9 teaching students with autism for all teacher preparation and  
10 professional development programs and shall submit the recommendations  
11 to the governor and the education committees of the legislature.

12 (4) By December 1, 2008, the superintendent of public instruction  
13 shall report the policy guidelines to school districts for the  
14 districts to use to develop and adopt their policies.

15 (5) By April 1, 2009, each school district shall use the guidelines  
16 developed under subsection (1) of this section to develop and adopt a  
17 school district policy for each school in the district to ensure that  
18 teachers are well-prepared and up-to-date on the most effective methods  
19 of teaching children with autism.

20 (6) Guidelines adopted by school districts under this section shall  
21 also apply to classified staff seeking a special education endorsement  
22 or certification, or both.

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