
SENATE BILL 5087

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Senators Wellman, Hasegawa, Wilson, C., and Kuderer

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1 AN ACT Relating to establishing the world language competency
2 grant program; amending RCW 28A.300.575; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes the many
5 benefits of having skills in a second language, particularly with
6 respect to the development of dual language skills at a young age. As
7 students move through school and their respective careers, dual
8 language skills provide an immense value to students and expand
9 education and career opportunities. In addition, the legislature
10 recognizes and commends students who come to school with skills in
11 multiple languages, and that further development and recognition of
12 these skills can improve educational outcomes for all students.

13 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.300.575 and 2014 c 102 s 2 are each amended to
14 read as follows:

15 (1) The Washington state seal of biliteracy is established to
16 recognize public high school graduates who have attained a high level
17 of proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing in one or more world
18 languages in addition to English. School districts are encouraged to
19 award the seal of biliteracy to graduating high school students who
20 meet the criteria established by the office of the superintendent of

1 public instruction under this section. Participating school districts
2 shall place a notation on a student's high school diploma and high
3 school transcript indicating that the student has earned the seal.

4 (2) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
5 adopt rules establishing criteria for award of the Washington state
6 seal of biliteracy and as necessary for implementation of the world
7 language competency credit grant program established in subsection
8 (4) of this section. The criteria for award of the Washington state
9 seal of biliteracy must require a student to demonstrate proficiency
10 in English by meeting state high school graduation requirements in
11 English, including through state assessments and credits, and
12 proficiency in one or more world languages other than English. The
13 criteria must permit a student to demonstrate proficiency in another
14 world language through multiple methods including nationally or
15 internationally recognized language proficiency tests and competency-
16 based world language credits awarded under the model policy adopted
17 by the Washington state school directors' association.

18 (3) For the purposes of this section, a world language other than
19 English must include American sign language and Native American
20 languages.

21 (4)(a) The world language competency credit grant program is
22 established.

23 (b) Grants administered under this subsection shall be provided
24 to districts to cover costs associated with world language
25 proficiency tests for low-income students.

26 (c) For the purposes of the grant program established in this
27 subsection, a student is considered low-income if the student
28 qualifies for free or reduced price meals.

29 (d) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
30 administer the grant program established under this subsection.

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