
SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5572

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Senate Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Honeyford, Takko, Short, Warnick, Schoesler, and King)

READ FIRST TIME 03/01/19.

1 AN ACT Relating to modernization grants for small school
2 districts; and adding a new section to chapter 28A.525 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.525
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1) School construction assistance program grants for small
7 school districts and state-tribal education compact schools must be
8 determined in accordance with this section.

9 (2) Eligibility. School districts and state-tribal education
10 compact schools with enrollments that are less than or equal to one
11 thousand students are eligible for small school district
12 modernization grants. The advisory committee specified in subsection
13 (4)(a) of this section may recommend amendments to the eligibility
14 threshold as they learn more about the characteristics of school
15 districts and state-tribal education compact schools that are unable
16 to modernize their aging school facilities. Districts with incomplete
17 information in the inventory and condition of schools data system are
18 not eligible to apply for construction grants but may apply for
19 planning grants.

20 (3) The office of the superintendent of public instruction must
21 assist eligible school districts and state-tribal education compact

1 schools that are interested in applying for a small school district
2 modernization grant under this section by providing technical
3 assistance and planning grants within appropriations for this
4 purpose. Districts and state-tribal education compact schools seeking
5 planning grants must provide a brief statement of the school
6 condition, its deficiencies, student enrollment, student achievement
7 measures, and financial limitations of the district or state-tribal
8 education compact school. If applications for planning grants exceed
9 funds available, the office of the superintendent of public
10 instruction may prioritize the recipients of planning grants in order
11 to help districts and state-tribal education compact schools with the
12 most serious apparent building deficiencies, and the most limited
13 financial capacity.

14 (4) Prioritized construction grants and advisory committee.

15 (a) The superintendent of public instruction must propose a list
16 of prioritized grants to the governor by September 1st of even-
17 numbered years. The superintendent of public instruction must appoint
18 an advisory committee to prioritize applications from small school
19 districts and state-tribal education compact schools. Committee
20 members must have experience in financing, managing, repairing, and
21 improving school facilities in small school districts or state-tribal
22 education compact schools but must not be involved in a small school
23 district modernization program grant request for the biennium under
24 consideration. The office of the superintendent of public instruction
25 must provide administrative and staff support to the committee. The
26 office of the superintendent of public instruction in consultation
27 with the advisory committee must design a grant application process
28 with specific criteria for prioritizing grant requests.

29 (b) The advisory committee created in (a) of this subsection must
30 evaluate final applications from eligible school districts and state-
31 tribal education compact schools. The advisory committee must submit
32 a prioritized list of grants to the superintendent of public
33 instruction. The list must prioritize applications to achieve the
34 greatest improvement of school facilities, in the districts and
35 state-tribal education compact schools with the most limited
36 financial capacity, for projects that are likely to improve student
37 health, safety, and academic performance for the largest number of
38 students for the amount of state grant support. The advisory
39 committee must develop specific criteria to achieve the
40 prioritization. The submitted prioritized list must describe the

1 project, the proposed state funding level, and the estimated total
2 project cost including other funding and in-kind resources. The list
3 must also indicate student achievement measures that will be used to
4 evaluate the benefits of the project. The superintendent of public
5 instruction and the governor may determine the level of funding in
6 their omnibus capital appropriations act requests to support small
7 school district modernization grants, but their funding requests must
8 follow the prioritized list prepared by the advisory committee unless
9 new information determines that a specific project is no longer
10 viable as proposed.

11 (5) Coordination with the school construction assistance program.

12 (a) The full administrative and procedural process of school
13 construction assistance program funding under RCW 28A.525.162 through
14 28A.525.180 may be streamlined by the office of the superintendent of
15 public instruction in order to coordinate eligible school
16 construction assistance program funding with the small school
17 district modernization grants. Such coordination must ensure that
18 total state funding from both grants does not exceed total project
19 costs minus available local resources.

20 (b) Projects seeking small school district modernization grants
21 must meet the requirements for a school construction assistance
22 program grant except for the following: (i) The estimated cost of the
23 project may be less than forty percent of the estimated replacement
24 value of the facility, and (ii) local funding assistance percentage
25 requirements of the school construction assistance program do not
26 apply. However, available district and state-tribal education compact
27 school resources are considered in prioritizing small school district
28 modernization grants.

29 (6) Disbursement of grant funds and reporting requirements. The
30 office of the superintendent of public instruction must award grants
31 to school districts and state-tribal education compact schools. The
32 grant must not be awarded until the district or state-tribal
33 education compact school has identified available local and other
34 resources sufficient to complete the approved project considering the
35 amount of the state grant. The grant must specify reporting
36 requirements from the district or state-tribal education compact
37 school, which must include updating all pertinent information in the
38 inventory and condition of schools data system and submitting a final
39 project report as specified by the office of the superintendent of

1 public instruction in consultation with the school facilities
2 citizens advisory panel specified in RCW 28A.525.025.

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