
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5612

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education (originally sponsored by Senators Rivers, Salomon, Frockt, Wilson, C., Carlyle, Billig, Wellman, Zeiger, Warnick, Palumbo, Pedersen, Van De Wege, Hasegawa, Holy, Hunt, Keiser, Kuderer, Lias, and O'Ban)

READ FIRST TIME 02/22/19.

1 AN ACT Relating to Holocaust education; amending RCW 28A.300.115;
2 adding a new section to chapter 28A.300 RCW; and creating a new
3 section.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.300.115 and 1992 c 24 s 1 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1) Every public middle school, junior high school, and high
8 school is strongly encouraged to include in its curriculum
9 instruction on the events of the period in modern world history known
10 as the Holocaust, (~~during which six million Jews and millions of~~
11 ~~non-Jews were exterminated~~) the systemic, German state-sponsored
12 persecution and murder of Jews and other innocent victims by the Nazi
13 regime and its collaborators between the years 1933 and 1945. The
14 instruction may also include other examples (~~from both ancient and~~
15 ~~modern history where subcultures or large human populations have been~~
16 ~~eradicated by the acts of humankind~~) of genocide and crimes against
17 humanity. The studying of this material is intended to: Examine the
18 ramifications of prejudice, racism, and intolerance; prepare students
19 to be responsible citizens in a pluralistic democracy; and be a
20 reaffirmation of the commitment of free peoples never again to permit
21 such occurrences.

1 (2) The office of the superintendent of public instruction ((may
2 prepare and make available to all school districts instructional
3 materials for use as guidelines for instruction under this section)),
4 in collaboration with an expert Washington nonprofit organization
5 that teaches the lessons of the Holocaust, must:

6 (a) Develop best practices and guidelines for high quality
7 instruction under this section; and

8 (b) Encourage and support middle school, junior high school, and
9 high school teachers in implementing these best practices and
10 guidelines.

11 (3) Beginning September 1, 2020, middle schools, junior high
12 schools, and high schools that offer instruction as described in
13 subsection (1) of this section must follow the best practices and
14 guidelines developed under subsection (2) of this section.

15 (4) The office of the superintendent of public instruction must
16 electronically publish the best practices and guidelines developed
17 under this section on an annual basis.

18 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 28A.300
19 RCW to read as follows:

20 Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
21 specific purpose, and in order to broaden the reach of the
22 instruction to public school students, the office of the
23 superintendent of public instruction must work with an expert
24 Washington nonprofit organization that teaches the lessons of the
25 Holocaust, to support and train Washington middle school, junior high
26 school, and high school teachers who teach in subjects relevant to
27 the topic, in instructing the lessons of the Holocaust and other acts
28 of genocide using the best practices and guidelines for the high
29 quality instruction developed under RCW 28A.300.115.

30 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. (1) By November 14, 2022, the office of
31 the superintendent of public instruction must collect feedback from
32 expert Washington nonprofit organizations that teach the lessons of
33 the Holocaust and support and train Washington teachers in
34 instructing the lessons of the Holocaust and other acts of genocide
35 about:

36 (a) How the best practices and guidelines for high quality
37 instruction on the events of the period in modern world history known

1 as the Holocaust developed under RCW 28A.300.115 are being
2 implemented statewide;

3 (b) Whether, and how, the best practices and guidelines should be
4 modified;

5 (c) The number of teachers trained and supported on using the
6 best practices and guidelines in the past two years; and

7 (d) Whether instruction should be required in public schools, and
8 if so, in which grades.

9 (2) By December 12, 2022, and in compliance with RCW 43.01.036,
10 the office of the superintendent of public instruction must work with
11 expert Washington nonprofit organizations described under subsection
12 (1) of this section to summarize the feedback collected under
13 subsection (1) of this section and report it to the appropriate
14 committees of the legislature with a recommendation about whether
15 instruction should be required in public schools, and if so, in which
16 grades.

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