

---

**SENATE BILL 6124**

---

**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2020 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Hunt, Nguyen, and Wilson, C.

Prefiled 12/31/19. Read first time 01/13/20. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing a statewide environmental  
2 sustainability education program; adding a new section to chapter  
3 28A.300 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that environmental  
6 and sustainability education offers a rich and meaningful context for  
7 integrated learning and teaching. The legislature also finds that  
8 nonprofit community-based organizations are uniquely positioned to  
9 strengthen classroom learning by partnering and collaborating with  
10 schools and local employers to offer K-12 educators work-integrated  
11 learning experiences that address the Washington state science  
12 learning standards including next generation science standards. Close  
13 collaboration with educational service district's regional science  
14 coordinators can optimize learning by helping align next generation  
15 science standards implementation with community-based organization  
16 initiatives to ensure all students have access to engaging field  
17 experiences allowing them to understand the scientific, social, and  
18 economic impacts of healthy community resources such as gardens,  
19 watersheds and water systems, energy systems, or forests so they can  
20 participate in solutions to problems such as ocean acidification,  
21 rural economic development, or ecosystems impacted by megafires.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    A new section is added to chapter 28A.300

2    RCW to read as follows:

3        (1) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall  
4    provide state leadership for the integration of environmental and  
5    sustainability content with curriculum, instruction, and assessment.

6        (2)(a) Subject to funds appropriated for this specific purpose,  
7    the office of the superintendent of public instruction shall contract  
8    with a Washington state-based qualified 501(c) nonprofit community-  
9    based organization to integrate the state learning standards in  
10   English language arts, mathematics, and science with the FieldSTEM  
11   model of outdoor field studies and project-based and work-based  
12   learning opportunities aligned with the environmental, natural  
13   resources, and agricultural sectors.

14        (b) The Washington state nonprofit organization must work  
15   collaboratively with the office of the superintendent of public  
16   instruction and educational service districts to:

17        (i) Build systemic programming that connects administrators,  
18   school boards, and communities to support teacher practice and  
19   student opportunities for the strengthened delivery of environmental  
20   and sustainability education;

21        (ii) Support K-12 educators to teach students integrated,  
22   equitable, locally relevant, real-world environmental science and  
23   engineering outdoors, aligned to Washington science and environmental  
24   and sustainability education standards, and provide opportunities to  
25   engage students in renewable natural resource career awareness; and

26        (iii) Deliver learning materials, opportunities, and resources  
27   including, but not limited to:

28        (A) Providing opportunities outside the classroom to connect  
29   transdisciplinary content, concepts, and skills in the context of the  
30   local community;

31        (B) Encouraging application of critical and creative thinking  
32   skills to identify and analyze issues, seek answers, and engineer  
33   solutions;

34        (C) Creating community-connected, local opportunities to engage  
35   students in stewardship projects that enhance their interest in  
36   sustaining the ecosystem and respecting natural resources;

37        (D) Providing work-based learning opportunities for careers in  
38   the environmental science and engineering, natural resources,  
39   sustainability, renewable energy, agriculture, and outdoor recreation

1 sectors and build skills for completion of industry recognized  
2 certifications; and

3 (E) Providing models for integrating since time immemorial in  
4 teaching materials so that students learn the unique heritage,  
5 history, culture, and government of the nearest federally recognized  
6 Indian tribe or tribes.

7 (c) Priority focus must be given to schools that have been  
8 identified for improvement through the Washington school improvement  
9 framework and communities historically underserved by science  
10 education. These communities can include, but are not limited to,  
11 tribal nations including tribal compact schools, migrant students,  
12 schools with high free and reduced-price lunch populations, rural and  
13 remote schools, students in alternative learning environments,  
14 students of color, English language learner students, and students  
15 receiving special education services.

16 (3) For the purposes of this section, a "qualified 501(c)  
17 nonprofit community-based organization" means a nonprofit  
18 organization physically located in Washington state that:

19 (a) Has at least fifteen years of experience collaborating with  
20 school districts across the state to provide high quality  
21 professional development to kindergarten through twelfth grade  
22 educators to teach students real-world environmental science and  
23 engineering outside the classroom;

24 (b) Whose materials and instructional practices align with  
25 Washington's environmental and sustainability learning standards and  
26 the Washington state learning standards, including the common core  
27 standards for mathematics and English language arts;

28 (c) Whose materials and instructional practices emphasize the  
29 next generation science standards to support local, relevant, and  
30 field-based learning experiences; and

31 (d) Delivers project-based learning materials and resources that  
32 incorporate career connections to local businesses and community-  
33 based organizations, contain professional development support for  
34 classroom teachers, have measurable assessment objectives, and have  
35 demonstrated community support.

--- END ---