
SENATE BILL 6596

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Senators Honeyford, Cleveland, and Wagoner

Read first time 01/24/20. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to school construction assistance program grants
2 for small, rural districts; and adding a new section to chapter
3 28A.525 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.525
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) School construction assistance program grants for small,
8 rural districts must be determined in accordance with this section.

9 (2)(a) School districts with enrollments that are less than or
10 equal to one thousand students are eligible for small, rural district
11 construction assistance grants. Districts with incomplete facility
12 inventory and condition data in the information and condition of
13 schools data system are not eligible to apply.

14 (b) For school districts that, because of low-assessed property
15 values or high indebtedness, are not able to access school
16 construction assistance program grants, the office of the
17 superintendent of public instruction shall recommend measures for
18 those school districts to become eligible for the small, rural
19 district school construction assistance program. The construction
20 assistance grants may be used for modernization of existing

1 instructional facilities and new construction of instructional
2 facilities.

3 (3) (a) The superintendent of public instruction must appoint an
4 advisory committee whose members have experience in financing and
5 managing school facilities in small school districts to assist the
6 office in designing the grant application process, developing the
7 prioritization criteria, and evaluating the grant applications.
8 Advisory committee members may not be involved in a small, rural
9 district construction assistance program request for the biennium
10 under consideration. The office of the superintendent of public
11 instruction must provide administrative and staff support to the
12 committee.

13 (b) The advisory committee must develop specific criteria to
14 achieve the prioritization. The submitted prioritized list must
15 describe the project, the proposed state funding level, and the
16 estimated total project cost including other funding and in-kind
17 resources. In addition to prioritization criteria developed by the
18 office of the superintendent of public instruction and the advisory
19 committee, the office and the advisory committee must also prioritize
20 projects that: (i) Improve student health, safety, and academic
21 performance for the largest number of students; and (ii) provide the
22 most available school district resources, including in-kind
23 resources. The superintendent of public instruction and the governor
24 may determine the level of funding in their omnibus capital
25 appropriations act requests to support small, rural district
26 construction assistance grants, but their funding requests must
27 follow the prioritized list prepared by the advisory committee unless
28 new information determines that a specific project is no longer
29 viable as proposed.

30 (4) The superintendent of public instruction must submit a list
31 of small, rural district construction assistance projects, as
32 prioritized by the advisory committee, to the legislature by
33 September 1st of even-numbered years.

34 (5) The grant may not be awarded until the district has
35 identified available local and other resources sufficient to complete
36 the approved project considering the amount of the state grant. When
37 a district has used local funds for costs eligible for state fund
38 reimbursement under a small, rural construction assistance grant, if
39 the state funds are not applied to eligible project costs, use of the
40 state funds must comply with the requirements of the applicable

1 source of local funds. Upon completing the project, the grantee must
2 submit a final project report as specified by the office of the
3 superintendent of public instruction in consultation with the school
4 facilities citizen advisory panel created in RCW 28A.525.025.

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