

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a school-grading program that relies on
2 the accountability index; and adding new sections to chapter 28A.655
3 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.655
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) The primary purposes of a school-grading program are to enhance
8 the learning gains of all students, provide feedback to schools and
9 school districts, supply parents and community members with
10 understandable information about their schools, and provide information
11 regarding school accountability and recognition.

12 (2) Beginning with the 2013-14 school year, the state board of
13 education must implement a school-grading program that identifies
14 schools as having one of the following grades:

- 15 (a) "A" for schools making excellent progress;
16 (b) "B" for schools making above average progress;
17 (c) "C" for schools making satisfactory progress;
18 (d) "D" for schools making less than satisfactory progress; and
19 (e) "F" for schools failing to make adequate progress.

1 (3) Each school that has students who are tested using the
2 assessments administered statewide in reading, writing, mathematics,
3 and science required under RCW 28A.655.061, 28A.655.066, and
4 28A.655.070 shall earn a school grade, except as follows:

5 (a) To protect the privacy of students, schools, and districts
6 testing fewer than ten students in a grade level;

7 (b) A school that serves any combination of students in
8 kindergarten through grade three shall not earn a school grade based on
9 test scores because its students are not tested. Such schools shall be
10 included in the school-grading program by earning the grade designation
11 of the K-3 feeder-pattern school identified by the office of the
12 superintendent of public instruction and verified by the school
13 district. A school feeder pattern exists if at least sixty percent of
14 the students in the school serving a combination of students in
15 kindergarten through grade three are scheduled to be assigned to the
16 graded school. The school with students in kindergarten through grade
17 three will earn the grade earned by its feeder-pattern school. These
18 schools are eligible for the same school recognition under section 2 of
19 this act as their feeder-pattern schools.

20 (4)(a) A school's grade shall be determined by the state board of
21 education using the accountability index, cooperatively developed under
22 RCW 28A.657.110 by the state board of education and the office of the
23 superintendent of public instruction. The index must measure the
24 increase in student achievement on the statewide administered
25 assessments in reading, writing, mathematics, and science; and the
26 reduction in student achievement gaps. The index may include other
27 student outcome measurements.

28 (b) For schools with any combination of grades nine, ten, eleven,
29 and twelve, at least fifty percent of a school's grade shall be
30 determined using the accountability index and the remaining percentage
31 shall be based on the following factors, if the factors are not already
32 included in the accountability index:

33 (i) The high school graduation rate of the school as calculated by
34 the office of the superintendent of public instruction;

35 (ii) As valid data becomes available, the performance and
36 participation of the school's students in AP courses, international
37 baccalaureate courses, and dual enrollment courses; and student
38 achievement of national industry certification;

1 (iii) Postsecondary readiness of all of the school's on-time
2 graduates as measured by the SAT, the ACT, or a placement test; and

3 (iv) The high school graduation rate of at-risk students.

4 (5)(a) The state board of education shall adopt appropriate
5 criteria for each school grade.

6 (b) The criteria must give added weight to student achievement in
7 reading.

8 (c) Schools earning a grade of "C," or higher must demonstrate that
9 at least half of the students in the school who are in the lowest
10 twenty-fifth percentile in reading and mathematics on the statewide
11 administered assessments are making adequate progress; if not, the
12 school letter grade is decreased by one letter.

13 (d) For schools with any combination of grades nine, ten, eleven,
14 and twelve, the criteria for school grades must also give added weight
15 to the graduation rate of all eligible at-risk students. In order for
16 a high school to earn a grade of "A," the school must demonstrate that
17 its at-risk students are making adequate progress.

18 (6) The office of the superintendent of public instruction must
19 annually report each school district's grade to the governor and the
20 legislature. A school district's grade must be calculated using
21 student performance and learning gains data on statewide assessments
22 used for determining school grades under subsection (4) of this section
23 for each eligible student enrolled for a full school year in the
24 district. This calculation methodology captures information describing
25 each eligible student in the district who may have transferred among
26 schools within the district or who is enrolled in a school that does
27 not earn a grade.

28 (7) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
29 adapt the model school performance report and the agency web site
30 originally developed under RCW 28A.655.110 to include each school
31 district's grade and each school's grade. Each school district's and
32 school's report card shall be published annually, with the school and
33 district grade history, by the agency on its web site.

34 (8) Each school district must include in its annual school
35 performance report required under RCW 28A.655.110 each school's grade
36 and must also include the school district's grade.

37 (9) For the purposes of this section, "at-risk students" means

1 students scoring at level one or level two on the eighth grade
2 statewide administered reading and mathematics assessment.

3 (10) The state board of education and the office of the
4 superintendent of public instruction shall adopt rules, as necessary,
5 to administer this section.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.655
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 (1) The legislature finds that there is a need for a performance
9 incentive program for outstanding faculty and staff in highly
10 productive schools. The legislature further finds that performance-
11 based incentives are commonplace in the private sector and should be
12 infused into the public sector as a reward for productivity.

13 (2) The Washington school recognition program is created to provide
14 financial awards to public schools that:

15 (a) Sustain high performance by earning a school grade of "A" under
16 section 1 of this act, making excellent progress; or

17 (b) Demonstrate exemplary improvement due to innovation and effort
18 by improving at least one letter grade or by improving more than one
19 letter grade and sustaining the improvement the following school year.

20 (3) All public schools, including alternative and charter schools,
21 earning a school grade under section 1 of this act are eligible to
22 participate in the program.

23 (4) All selected schools shall receive financial awards depending
24 on the availability of funds appropriated and the number and size of
25 schools selected to receive an award. Funds must be distributed by the
26 office of the superintendent of public instruction to the school's
27 fiscal agent and placed in the school's account and must be used for
28 purposes listed in subsection (5) of this section as determined jointly
29 by the school's staff and school advisory council, if the school has an
30 advisory council. If school staff and the school advisory council
31 cannot reach agreement by February 1st, the awards must be equally
32 distributed to all classroom teachers currently teaching in the school.
33 If a school selected to receive a school recognition award is no longer
34 in existence at the time the award is paid, the district school
35 superintendent shall distribute the funds to teachers who taught at the
36 school in the previous year in the form of a bonus.

37 (5) School recognition awards must be used for the following:

1 (a) Nonrecurring bonuses to the faculty and staff;

2 (b) Nonrecurring expenditures for educational equipment or
3 materials to assist in maintaining and improving student performance;
4 or

5 (c) Temporary personnel for the school to assist in maintaining and
6 improving student performance.

7 (6) Notwithstanding statutory provisions to the contrary, school
8 recognition awards are not subject to collective bargaining.

9 (7) Each school that earns a grade of "A" under section 1 of this
10 act or improves at least two letter grades shall have greater authority
11 over the allocation of the school's total state budget including
12 apportionment funds and state categorical funds, as specified in rules
13 adopted by the office of the superintendent of public instruction. The
14 rules must provide that the increased budget authority remain in effect
15 until the school's grade declines.

16 (8) The legislature may factor in the performance of schools in
17 calculating any performance-based funding policy that is provided for
18 in the biennial appropriations act.

--- END ---