
HOUSE BILL 1727

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Representatives Rule and Eslick

1 AN ACT Relating to school library information and technology
2 programs; amending RCW 28A.320.240; adding a new section to chapter
3 28A.320 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 28A.300 RCW; adding a
4 new section to chapter 28A.305 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that students with
7 access to school library information and technology programs staffed
8 by qualified teacher-librarians have improved school and life
9 outcomes, including higher academic achievement, increased graduation
10 rates, and increased preparedness for college or career pathways.
11 Unfortunately, not all students have access to these programs
12 statewide, leading to disparate outcomes. According to recent data
13 collected by the Washington library association, nearly 60 percent of
14 school districts in Washington state have no certified teacher-
15 librarian running their school library information and technology
16 programs. Lack of access to these programs disproportionately impacts
17 low-income families and families of color. Recent findings show that
18 access to high-quality school libraries was one of the most
19 significant factors in closing the literacy gap for students
20 experiencing poverty.

1 Additionally, the legislature finds that the rise of
2 misinformation and disinformation available through the internet
3 necessitates comprehensive instruction by a qualified teacher-
4 librarian in information literacy, digital citizenship, and media
5 literacy for all K-12 students. The value of these programs was
6 apparent during the COVID-19 pandemic. School districts with
7 qualified teacher-librarians and strong school library information
8 and technology programs were better able to support teachers,
9 students, and families during remote learning.

10 The legislature has shown support for school library information
11 and technology programs through the passage of legislation clearly
12 defining both programs and teacher-librarians. These programs have
13 been acknowledged as critically important to supporting state-
14 mandated learning goals, state learning standards, and high school
15 graduation requirements through inclusion of both teacher-librarians
16 and library materials as part of basic education in the prototypical
17 school model. Teacher-librarians are seen as critical partners in the
18 education of our students including in the equitable and successful
19 use of educational technology. Despite this continued support from
20 the legislature, data shows large areas of Washington where students
21 do not have access to school library information and technology
22 programs staffed by qualified teacher-librarians.

23 The legislature intends to provide access to high-quality school
24 library information and technology programs with qualified teacher-
25 librarians for students and staff at all K-12 levels while also
26 recognizing the value of allowing local school boards to decide how
27 to most effectively implement these essential programs for their
28 schools and students.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.320
30 RCW to read as follows:

31 By September 1, 2026, each school district must adopt or amend:

32 (1) A policy that acknowledges the requirement for boards of
33 directors to provide every student with access to school library
34 information and technology programs as specified in RCW 28A.320.240;
35 and

36 (2) Procedures that describe how students can access school
37 library information and technology instruction, resources, and
38 materials.

1 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.320.240 and 2015 c 27 s 1 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 (1) The purpose of this section is to identify quality criteria
4 for school library information and technology programs that support
5 the student learning goals under RCW 28A.150.210, the (~~essential~~
6 ~~academic learning requirements~~) state learning standards under RCW
7 28A.655.070, and high school graduation requirements adopted under
8 RCW 28A.230.090.

9 (2) Every board of directors shall provide resources and
10 materials for the operation of a school library information and
11 technology program(~~s as the board deems necessary for the proper~~
12 ~~education of the district's students or as otherwise required by law~~
13 ~~or rule of the superintendent of public instruction~~). Each student
14 must have access to a school library information and technology
15 program, as determined by the board of directors and consistent with
16 the requirements of this section.

17 (3) "Teacher-librarian" means a certificated teacher with a
18 library media endorsement under rules adopted by the professional
19 educator standards board.

20 (4) (a) "School library information and technology program" means
21 a school-based program that is staffed, except as provided under (b)
22 of this subsection, by a certificated teacher-librarian and provides
23 a broad, flexible array of services, resources, and instruction that
24 support student mastery of the (~~essential academic learning~~
25 ~~requirements~~) state learning standards and state standards in all
26 subject areas and the implementation of the district's school
27 improvement plan.

28 (b) A school district with fewer than 3,000 enrolled students may
29 use a noncertificated staff member to oversee a school library
30 information and technology program if the district has made all
31 reasonable efforts to use a certificated teacher-librarian. In such a
32 circumstance, a school district is authorized and encouraged to
33 partner with an educational service district or one or more school
34 districts to provide for the requirements of the school library
35 information and technology program. The school library information
36 and technology program must remain school-based and may not operate
37 at a satellite location. School districts are encouraged to partner
38 with a library or regional library as defined in RCW 27.12.010, or an
39 institution of higher education as defined in RCW 28B.10.016, for
40 materials and resources.

1 (5) The teacher-librarian, through the school library information
2 and technology program, shall collaborate as an instructional partner
3 to help all students meet the content goals in all subject areas, and
4 assist high school students completing high school and beyond plans
5 required for graduation.

6 (6) The teacher-librarian's duties may include, but are not
7 limited to, collaborating with his or her schools to:

8 (a) Integrate information and technology into curriculum and
9 instruction, including but not limited to instructing other
10 certificated staff about using and integrating information and
11 technology literacy into instruction through workshops, modeling
12 lessons, and individual peer coaching;

13 (b) Provide information management instruction to students and
14 staff about how to effectively use emerging learning technologies for
15 school and lifelong learning, as well as in the appropriate use of
16 computers and mobile devices in an educational setting;

17 (c) Help teachers and students efficiently and effectively access
18 the highest quality information available while using information
19 ethically;

20 (d) Instruct students in digital citizenship including how to be
21 critical consumers of information and provide guidance about
22 thoughtful and strategic use of online resources; (~~and~~)

23 (e) Create a culture of reading in the school community by
24 developing a diverse, student-focused collection of materials that
25 ensures all students can find something of quality to read and by
26 facilitating school-wide reading initiatives along with providing
27 individual support and guidance for students; and

28 (f) Direct classified staff, including library technicians,
29 library assistants, and others, to implement the school library
30 information and technology program.

31 NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. A new section is added to chapter 28A.300
32 RCW to read as follows:

33 (1) The superintendent of public instruction shall oversee school
34 library information and technology programs. In meeting this
35 requirement, the superintendent of public instruction, at a minimum,
36 shall:

37 (a) Identify a single point of contact at the office of the
38 superintendent of public instruction to respond to library

1 information and technology inquiries from school district personnel,
2 including teachers and teacher-librarians;

3 (b) Gather and analyze data related to the implementation of
4 school library information and technology programs and the assessment
5 of students' educational technology literacy and technology fluency;

6 (c) Provide technical assistance on establishing school library
7 and information technology programs within existing resources to
8 schools that do not have these programs. In meeting the obligations
9 of this subsection (1)(c), the office of the superintendent of public
10 instruction must prioritize the provision of assistance to schools
11 receiving funding under Title I, part A of the federal elementary and
12 secondary education act of 1965;

13 (d) Assist public schools with the effective implementation of
14 school library information and technology programs;

15 (e) Support public schools in evaluating how they are providing
16 opportunities for every student to meet basic education technology
17 literacy and fluency goals, under RCW 28A.150.210(3);

18 (f) Identify and share assessments and other measures of
19 students' knowledge and skill in the areas of educational technology
20 literacy and technology fluency, as defined in RCW 28A.655.075;

21 (g) Produce, in consultation with the Washington state school
22 directors' association, guidance for school districts on the best
23 models and practices for school library information and technology
24 programs; and

25 (h) Facilitate the adoption of statewide library standards based
26 on the American association of school librarians and the
27 international society for technology in education standards.

28 (2) For the purposes of this section, "school library information
29 and technology program" has the same meaning as in RCW 28A.320.240.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.305
31 RCW to read as follows:

32 (1) Beginning in the 2025-26 school year, the state board of
33 education, in accordance with section 2, chapter 280, Laws of 2011,
34 shall annually monitor school district compliance with RCW
35 28A.320.240(2). In meeting the requirements of this section, the
36 state board of education must collect information for each school
37 district about:

38 (a) Student access to school library information and technology
39 programs;

1 (b) Media literacy and digital citizenship instruction; and

2 (c) Technology literacy instruction.

3 (2) The monitoring required by this section may be conducted
4 concurrently with other oversight and monitoring conducted by the
5 state board of education.

--- END ---