
SENATE BILL 5242

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2021 Regular Session

By Senators Lias and Short

1 AN ACT Relating to supporting media literacy and digital
2 citizenship; adding new sections to chapter 28A.300 RCW; and
3 providing expiration dates.

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.300
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1)(a) The office of the superintendent of public instruction
8 shall establish a grant program for the purposes of supporting media
9 literacy and digital citizenship through school district leadership
10 teams. The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
11 establish and publish criteria for the grant program, and may accept
12 gifts, grants, or endowments from public or private sources for the
13 grant program.

14 (b) A school district that receives a grant under this section is
15 not prohibited from receiving a grant in subsequent grant cycles.

16 (2)(a) For a school district to qualify for a grant under this
17 section, the grant proposal must provide that the grantee create a
18 district leadership team that develops a curriculum unit on media
19 literacy or digital citizenship, or both, that may be integrated into
20 one of the following areas:

21 (i) Social studies;

1 (ii) English language arts; or

2 (iii) Health.

3 (b) School districts selected under the grant program are
4 expected to evaluate the curriculum unit they develop under this
5 subsection (2).

6 (c) In developing their curriculum unit, school districts
7 selected under the grant program are encouraged to work with school
8 district teacher-librarians or a school district library information
9 technology program, if applicable.

10 (3) The establishment of the grant program under this section is
11 subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this specific
12 purpose.

13 (4) The curriculum unit developed under this section must be made
14 available as an open educational resource.

15 (5) (a) Up to 10 grants a year awarded under this section must be
16 for establishing media literacy professional learning communities
17 with the purpose of sharing best practices in the subject of media
18 literacy.

19 (b) (i) Grant recipients under this subsection (5) are required to
20 develop an online presence for their community to model new
21 strategies and to share ideas, challenges, and successful practices.

22 (ii) Grant recipients shall attend the group meetings created by
23 the office of the superintendent of public instruction under (c) of
24 this subsection (5).

25 (c) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
26 convene group meetings for the purpose of sharing best practices and
27 strategies in media literacy education.

28 (d) Additional activities permitted for the use of these grants
29 include, but are not limited to:

30 (i) Organizing teachers from across a school district to develop
31 new instructional strategies and to share successful strategies;

32 (ii) Sharing successful practices across a group of school
33 districts; and

34 (iii) Facilitating coordination between educational service
35 districts and school districts to provide training.

36 (6) (a) At least one grant awarded in each award cycle must be for
37 developing and using a curriculum that contains a focus on synthetic
38 media as a major component.

39 (b) For the purposes of this section, "synthetic media" means an
40 image, an audio recording, or a video recording of an individual's

1 appearance, speech, or conduct that has been intentionally
2 manipulated with the use of digital technology in a manner to create
3 a realistic but false image, audio, or video.

4 (7) This section expires July 31, 2031.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
8 specific purpose, the office of the superintendent of public
9 instruction shall convene two regional conferences on the subject of
10 media literacy and digital citizenship.

11 (2) The conferences in this section should highlight the work
12 performed by the recipients of the grant program established under
13 section 1 of this act, as well as best practices in media literacy
14 and digital citizenship.

15 (3) The locations for conferences convened under this section
16 must include one site in western Washington and one site in eastern
17 Washington.

18 (4) This section expires July 31, 2031.

--- END ---