
SENATE BILL 5343

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By Senators Schoesler, Mullet, Padden, Dozier, Fortunato, Short, King, Warnick, Braun, Lias, and Wagoner

1 AN ACT Relating to reducing costs and increasing efficiency in
2 school construction through the use of modifiable standard school
3 construction plans; amending RCW 28A.525.166 and 28A.525.178; and
4 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 providing
7 opportunities to reduce design and construction costs can ease the
8 burden on many school districts seeking to build new school
9 facilities for their students.

10 The legislature further finds that the use of standardized school
11 design plans that could be modified for use at schools across the
12 state are an effective way for districts to reduce costs safely. The
13 legislature intends that schools should be encouraged to use such
14 plans. However, there is currently no available repository of plans
15 for school districts to use in their designs.

16 Therefore, the legislature intends that the office of the
17 superintendent of public instruction be directed to create such a
18 repository of exemplary, standardized plans for local districts to
19 access. The legislature further finds that school districts should be
20 encouraged and incentivized to use such plans through an additional

1 10 percentage points allocated within school construction assistance
2 program awards.

3 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.525.166 and 2015 3rd sp.s. c 3 s 7018 are each
4 amended to read as follows:

5 Allocations to school districts of state funds provided by RCW
6 28A.525.162 through 28A.525.180 shall be made by the superintendent
7 of public instruction and the amount of state funding assistance to a
8 school district in financing a school plant project shall be
9 determined in the following manner:

10 (1) The boards of directors of the districts shall determine the
11 total cost of the proposed project, which cost may include the cost
12 of acquiring and preparing the site, the cost of constructing the
13 building or of acquiring a building and preparing the same for school
14 use, the cost of necessary equipment, taxes chargeable to the
15 project, necessary architects' fees, and a reasonable amount for
16 contingencies and for other necessary incidental expenses: PROVIDED,
17 That the total cost of the project shall be subject to review and
18 approval by the superintendent.

19 (2) The state funding assistance percentage for a school district
20 shall be computed by the following formula:

21 The ratio of the school district's adjusted valuation per pupil
22 divided by the ratio of the total state adjusted valuation per pupil
23 shall be subtracted from three, and then the result of the foregoing
24 shall be divided by three plus (the ratio of the school district's
25 adjusted valuation per pupil divided by the ratio of the total state
26 adjusted valuation per pupil).

27

	District adjusted	Total state	
	3-valuation	÷ adjusted valuation	
28			
29	Computed	per pupil	per pupil State
30	State =	_____ = - % Funding	
31	Ratio	District adjusted	Total state Assistance
32		3+valuation	÷ adjusted valuation
33		per pupil	per pupil

34 PROVIDED, That in the event the state funding assistance percentage
35 to any school district based on the above formula is less than
36 ((~~twenty~~)) 20 percent and such school district is otherwise eligible
37 for state funding assistance under RCW 28A.525.162 through

1 28A.525.180, the superintendent may establish for such district a
2 state funding assistance percentage not in excess of (~~twenty~~) 20
3 percent of the approved cost of the project, if the superintendent
4 finds that such additional assistance is necessary to provide minimum
5 facilities for housing the pupils of the district.

6 (3) In addition to the computed state funding assistance
7 percentage developed in subsection (2) of this section, a school
8 district shall be entitled to additional percentage points determined
9 by the average percentage of growth for the past three years. One
10 percent shall be added to the computed state funding assistance
11 percentage for each percent of growth, with a maximum of (~~twenty~~)
12 20 percent.

13 (4) In addition to the computed state funding assistance
14 percentage developed in subsection (2) of this section, a school
15 district that uses exemplary, modifiable basic, or standard school
16 construction plans in their design and construction of school plant
17 facilities under RCW 28A.525.178 shall be entitled to 10 additional
18 percentage points. No school district may receive additional
19 percentage points under this subsection (4) that cause the district's
20 total computed state funding assistance percentage to exceed 100
21 percent.

22 (5) In computing the state funding assistance percentage in
23 subsection (2) of this section and adjusting the percentage under
24 subsections (3) and (4) of this section, students residing outside
25 the school district who are enrolled in alternative learning
26 experience courses under RCW 28A.232.010 shall be excluded from the
27 count of total pupils. In lieu of the exclusion in this subsection, a
28 district may submit an alternative calculation for excluding students
29 enrolled in alternative learning experience courses. The alternative
30 calculation must show the student headcount use of district classroom
31 facilities on a regular basis for a reasonable duration by out-of-
32 district alternative learning experience students subtracted by the
33 headcount of in-district alternative learning experience students not
34 using district classroom facilities on a regular basis for a
35 reasonable duration. The alternative calculation must be submitted in
36 a form approved by the office of the superintendent of public
37 instruction. The office of the superintendent of public instruction
38 must develop rules to define "regular basis" and "reasonable
39 duration."

1 ~~((+5))~~ (6) The approved cost of the project determined in the
2 manner prescribed in this section multiplied by the state funding
3 assistance percentage derived as provided for in this section shall
4 be the amount of state funding assistance to the district for the
5 financing of the project: PROVIDED, That need therefor has been
6 established to the satisfaction of the superintendent: PROVIDED,
7 FURTHER, That additional state funding assistance may be allowed if
8 it is found by the superintendent, considering policy recommendations
9 from the school facilities citizen advisory panel that such
10 assistance is necessary in order to meet (a) a school housing
11 emergency resulting from the destruction of a school building by
12 fire, the condemnation of a school building by properly constituted
13 authorities, a sudden excessive and clearly foreseeable future
14 increase in school population, or other conditions similarly emergent
15 in nature; or (b) a special school housing burden resulting from
16 projects of statewide significance or imposed by virtue of the
17 admission of nonresident students into educational programs
18 established, maintained and operated in conformity with the
19 requirements of law; or (c) a deficiency in the capital funds of the
20 district resulting from financing, subsequent to April 1, 1969, and
21 without benefit of the state funding assistance provided by prior
22 state assistance programs, the construction of a needed school
23 building project or projects approved in conformity with the
24 requirements of such programs, after having first applied for and
25 been denied state funding assistance because of the inadequacy of
26 state funds available for the purpose; or (d) a condition created by
27 the fact that an excessive number of students live in state owned
28 housing; or (e) a need for the construction of a school building to
29 provide for improved school district organization or racial balance;
30 or (f) conditions similar to those defined under (a), (b), (c), (d),
31 and (e) of this subsection, creating a like emergency.

32 ~~((+6))~~ (7) For the 2015-2017 biennium, schools determined to
33 have a lack of sufficient space to provide science classrooms or
34 labs, to meet the requirements of law, have a special housing burden
35 condition similar to those defined under subsection ~~((+5))~~ (6)(b) of
36 this section, creating a like emergency. For the 2015-2017 biennium,
37 school districts are entitled to additional percentage points for
38 school construction projects that have a special housing burden
39 condition only and have received private donations in the form of
40 cash, in-kind, or equipment of more than ~~((one hundred thousand~~

1 dollars)) \$100,000. The additional percentage points are determined
2 by (a) school district student enrollments in the free and reduced-
3 price meals program, (b) school district class as defined by RCW
4 28A.300.065, and (c) the funding assistance percentage as calculated
5 in subsection (2) of this section. The additional percentage points
6 under (a) of this subsection are (~~twenty~~) 20 percent of the percent
7 of student enrollments eligible and enrolled in the free and reduced-
8 price meals program. The additional percentage points under (b) of
9 this subsection are (~~ten~~) 10 for second class school districts. The
10 additional percentage points under (c) of this subsection are (~~ten~~)
11 10 for school districts with funding assistance percentages of more
12 than (~~fifty~~) 50 percent.

13 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.525.178 and 2006 c 263 s 317 are each amended to
14 read as follows:

15 (~~When economies may be affected without impairing the usefulness~~
16 ~~and adequacy of school buildings, the superintendent of public~~
17 ~~instruction, considering policy recommendations from the school~~
18 ~~facilities citizen advisory panel, may)) (1) The superintendent of
19 public instruction shall prescribe rules and establish procedures
20 governing the preparation, acquisition, and use of exemplary,
21 modifiable basic, or standard plans for school building construction
22 projects for which state assistance funds provided by RCW 28A.525.162
23 through 28A.525.180 are allotted.~~

24 (2) The superintendent of public instruction shall establish a
25 repository for exemplary, modifiable basic, or standard plans for new
26 school building construction that includes the expandable use of
27 classroom space. The superintendent of public instruction shall make
28 such plans available for review and use by school districts seeking
29 state assistance funds provided by RCW 28A.525.162 through
30 28A.525.180.

31 (3) School districts using a school construction plan selected
32 from the superintendent of public instruction repository in their
33 design and construction, shall be entitled to 10 additional
34 percentage points in their computed state funding assistance
35 percentage under RCW 28A.525.166(4).

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