
SENATE BILL 5451

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2013 Regular Session

By Senators Shin, Litzow, and McAuliffe

1 AN ACT Relating to supporting music education for young children in
2 public schools; adding a new section to chapter 28A.630 RCW; and
3 creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that:

6 (a) Scientific brain research indicates that music lessons help
7 children improve their language skills. Music can fundamentally shape
8 brains in ways that may enhance everyday tasks, including reading and
9 listening;

10 (b) Perhaps equally important, especially for young children, is
11 that music education provides opportunities for students to engage in
12 social interaction, play, creativity, and imagination; and

13 (c) Unfortunately, an increased emphasis on academic learning,
14 combined with budget constraints, has led schools to reduce or
15 eliminate music education for young children, especially in
16 high-poverty schools with limited resources.

17 (2) Therefore the legislature intends to take advantage of
18 innovative new curriculum in music education for young children and

1 provide support for its use in state-funded all-day kindergarten
2 classes.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.630
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 (1) Subject to funds appropriated specifically for this purpose,
6 the office of the superintendent of public instruction shall allocate
7 grants for a music does matter program to support music education for
8 young children, with funding provided to schools with state-funded
9 all-day kindergarten programs under RCW 28A.150.315. If funds are not
10 sufficient to cover all kindergarten classes in schools with
11 state-funded all-day kindergarten, the office of the superintendent of
12 public instruction must allocate the funds first to schools with the
13 highest percentages of students qualifying for free and reduced-price
14 lunch.

15 (2) The music does matter grants must be used to purchase a
16 standards-based music curriculum designed for preschool, kindergarten,
17 and first grade classrooms that may be taught by regular classroom
18 teachers without special music training. Grant recipients must
19 implement the curriculum in state-funded all-day kindergarten classes.

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