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**HOUSE BILL 1277**

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**State of Washington**

**68th Legislature**

**2023 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Donaghy, Harris, and Slatter; by request of Professional Educator Standards Board

1 AN ACT Relating to improving the consistency and quality of the  
2 implementation of the fundamental course of study for paraeducators;  
3 amending RCW 28A.413.060; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) By July 1, 2024, the paraeducator  
6 board must update rules on the implementation of RCW 28A.413.060. The  
7 rules must include:

8 (a) Guidance to school districts on how to provide the  
9 fundamental course of study to improve consistency and quality of  
10 staff development; and

11 (b) Criteria for exemptions of in-person learning to the  
12 fundamental course of study.

13 (2) The paraeducator board shall convene a work group consisting  
14 of paraeducators, teachers, principals, school district human  
15 resource professionals, superintendents, and educational service  
16 districts, and labor organizations that represent paraeducators, to  
17 make recommendations to the board on the development of updated  
18 rules.

19 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.413.060 and 2019 c 268 s 3 are each amended to  
20 read as follows:

1 (1) School districts must implement this section only in school  
2 years for which state funding is appropriated specifically for the  
3 purposes of this section and only for the number of days that are  
4 funded by the appropriation.

5 (2) School districts must provide a four-day fundamental course  
6 of study on the state standards of practice, as defined by the board,  
7 to paraeducators who have not completed the course, either in the  
8 district or in another district within the state. At least one day of  
9 the fundamental course of study must be provided in person unless  
10 there is an exemption under rules adopted by the board. School  
11 districts must use best efforts to provide the fundamental course of  
12 study before the paraeducator begins to work with students and their  
13 families, and at a minimum by the deadlines provided in subsection  
14 (3) of this section.

15 (3) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, school  
16 districts must provide the fundamental course of study required in  
17 subsection (2) of this section by the deadlines provided in (a) of  
18 this subsection:

19 (a) (i) For paraeducators hired on or before September 1st, the  
20 first two days of the fundamental course of study must be provided by  
21 September 30th of that year and the second two days of the  
22 fundamental course of study must be provided within six months of the  
23 date of hire, regardless of the size of the district; and

24 (ii) For paraeducators hired after September 1st:

25 (A) For districts with ten thousand or more students, the first  
26 two days of the fundamental course of study must be provided within  
27 four months of the date of hire and the second two days of the  
28 fundamental course of study must be provided within six months of the  
29 date of hire or by September 1st of the following year, whichever is  
30 sooner; and

31 (B) For districts with fewer than ten thousand students, no later  
32 than September 1st of the following year.

33 (b) (i) For paraeducators hired for the 2018-19 school year, by  
34 September 1, 2020; and

35 (ii) For paraeducators not hired for the 2018-19 school year, but  
36 hired for the 2019-20 school year, by September 1, 2021.

1           (4) School districts may collaborate with other school districts  
2 or educational service districts to meet the requirements of this  
3 section.

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