
HOUSE BILL 1609

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By Representative Eslick

1 AN ACT Relating to school library information and technology
2 programs; amending RCW 28A.320.240; adding new sections to chapter
3 28A.320 RCW; and 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 students
6 with access to school library information and technology programs
7 staffed by qualified teacher-librarians have improved school and life
8 outcomes, including academic achievement, graduation rates, and
9 readiness for career and college. These programs and staff are
10 critical in supporting the equitable and successful use of
11 educational technology, and during the COVID-19 pandemic, school
12 districts with robust programs and qualified staff were better able
13 to respond to the remote learning needs of teachers, students, and
14 families.

15 (2) The legislature recognizes, however, that not all students
16 have access to these programs or staff. Despite continued support
17 from the legislature, students in many areas of the state do not have
18 access to school library information and technology programs staffed
19 by qualified teacher-librarians.

20 (3) Lack of access to these programs and staff disproportionately
21 impact low-income families and families of color. Furthermore,

1 findings show that access to high-quality school libraries is one of
2 the most significant factors in closing the literacy gap for students
3 experiencing poverty.

4 (4) Additionally, the increase in internet misinformation and
5 disinformation necessitates instruction for all students in
6 information literacy, digital citizenship, and media literacy by a
7 qualified teacher-librarian.

8 (5) The legislature, therefore, intends to support and strengthen
9 access to high-quality school library information and technology
10 programs with qualified teacher-librarians for all students and staff
11 while acknowledging the value of having school district directors
12 determine how to effectively implement the programs for their
13 schools.

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

16 (1) The purpose of this section is to identify quality criteria
17 for school library information and technology programs that support
18 the student learning goals under RCW 28A.150.210, the ~~((essential~~
19 ~~academic learning requirements))~~ state learning standards under RCW
20 28A.655.070, and high school graduation requirements adopted under
21 RCW 28A.230.090.

22 (2) Every board of directors shall provide resources and
23 materials for the operation of school library information and
24 technology programs ~~((as the board deems necessary for the proper~~
25 ~~education of the district's students or as otherwise required by law~~
26 ~~or rule of the superintendent of public instruction.~~

27 ~~(3) "Teacher-librarian" means a certificated teacher with a~~
28 ~~library media endorsement under rules adopted by the professional~~
29 ~~educator standards board.~~

30 ~~(4) "School library information and technology program" means a~~
31 ~~school-based program that is staffed by a certificated teacher-~~
32 ~~librarian and provides a broad, flexible array of services,~~
33 ~~resources, and instruction that support student mastery of the~~
34 ~~essential academic learning requirements and state standards in all~~
35 ~~subject areas and the implementation of the district's school~~
36 ~~improvement plan.~~

37 ~~(5))~~. The board of directors shall also ensure that each student
38 has access to a school library information and technology program
39 that is consistent with the requirements of this section.

1 (3) 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))~~ (4) The teacher-librarian's duties may include, but are
7 not 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.

28 (5) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this
29 section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

30 (a) "Teacher-librarian" means a certificated teacher with a
31 library media endorsement under rules adopted by the professional
32 educator standards board.

33 (b) "School library information and technology program" means a
34 school-based program that is staffed by a certificated teacher-
35 librarian and provides a broad, flexible array of services,
36 resources, and instruction that support student mastery of the state
37 learning standards and the implementation of the school district's
38 school improvement plan, if applicable.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.320
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 By September 1, 2024, each school district must adopt or amend:
4 (1) A policy acknowledging the requirement for boards of directors to
5 provide every student with access to school library information and
6 technology programs as required by RCW 28A.320.240; and (2)
7 procedures describing how students can access resources and materials
8 from those programs.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.320
10 RCW to read as follows:

11 The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
12 provide data, information, summaries of best practices, and other
13 assistance to school districts for the purpose of implementing RCW
14 28A.320.240 and section 3 of this act.

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