
SENATE BILL 5612

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Senators Rivers, Salomon, Frockt, Wilson, C., Carlyle, Billig, Wellman, Zeiger, and Warnick

1 AN ACT Relating to Holocaust education; amending RCW 28A.300.115;
2 adding a new section to chapter 28A.300 RCW; and creating a new
3 section.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.300.115 and 1992 c 24 s 1 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1) Every public middle school, junior high school, and high
8 school is strongly encouraged to include in its curriculum
9 instruction on the events of the period in modern world history known
10 as the Holocaust, ((during which six million Jews and millions of
11 non-Jews were exterminated)) the systemic, German state-sponsored
12 persecution and murder of Jews and other innocent victims by the Nazi
13 regime and its collaborators between the years 1933 and 1945. The
14 instruction may also include other examples ((from both ancient and
15 modern history where subcultures or large human populations have been
16 eradicated by the acts of humankind)) of genocide and crimes against
17 humanity. The studying of this material is intended to teach empathy,
18 prepare students to be effective members of a pluralistic democracy,
19 and be a reaffirmation of the commitment of free peoples never again
20 to permit such occurrences.

1 (2) The office of the superintendent of public instruction ((may
2 prepare and make available to all school districts instructional
3 materials for use as guidelines for instruction under this section))
4 must partner with expert Washington nonprofit organizations that
5 teach the lessons of the Holocaust and support and train Washington
6 teachers in instructing the lessons of the Holocaust or other acts of
7 genocide to:

8 (a) Develop best practices and curricula for high quality
9 instruction under this section, where the curricula is of various
10 lengths and complexities; and

11 (b) Encourage and support middle school, junior high school, and
12 high school teachers in implementing these best practices and
13 curricula.

14 (3) Beginning September 1, 2020, middle schools, junior high
15 schools, and high schools that offer curriculum instruction as
16 described in subsection (1) of this section must use the curricula
17 and follow the best practices developed under subsection (1) of this
18 section.

19 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 28A.300
20 RCW to read as follows:

21 Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
22 specific purpose, and in order to broaden the reach of the
23 instruction to public school students, the office of the
24 superintendent of public instruction must work with expert Washington
25 nonprofit organizations that teach the lessons of the Holocaust and
26 support and train Washington teachers in instructing the lessons of
27 the Holocaust and other acts of genocide to train middle school,
28 junior high school, and high school teachers, who teach in subjects
29 relevant to the topic, on using the best practices and curricula for
30 the high-quality instruction developed under RCW 28A.300.115.

31 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. (1) By November 14, 2022, the office of
32 the superintendent of public instruction must collect feedback from
33 expert Washington nonprofit organizations that teach the lessons of
34 the Holocaust and support and train Washington teachers in
35 instructing the lessons of the Holocaust and other acts of genocide
36 about:

37 (a) How the best practices and curricula for high-quality
38 instruction on the events of the period in modern world history known

1 as the Holocaust developed under RCW 28A.300.115 are being
2 implemented statewide;

3 (b) Whether, and how, the best practices and curricula should be
4 modified;

5 (c) The number of teachers trained and supported on using the
6 best practices and curricula in the past two years; and

7 (d) Whether the curricula should be required in public schools,
8 and if so, in which grades.

9 (2) By December 12, 2022, and in compliance with RCW 43.01.036,
10 the office of the superintendent of public instruction must summarize
11 the feedback collected under subsection (1) of this section and
12 report it to the appropriate committees of the legislature with a
13 recommendation about whether the curricula should be required in
14 public schools, and if so, in which grades.

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