



ESN Legislative Update March 15, 2013

Last summer, Excellent Schools Now set three priorities for the 2013 Legislative Session. With the legislative process now half over, we thought it was a good time to provide an update and overview on a few bills that are related to our priorities. In the coming weeks, both the Senate and House will introduce budgets, and at that time will provide an update on how these budgets reflect our fiscal priorities.

- **Phase-in basic education and fully fund recent reform bills (House Bills 2261 and 2776, and Senate Bills 6696 and SB 5895).**
 - After the introduction of budgets in the House and Senate, we will know more about our progress on these priorities.
 - Rep. Sullivan introduced a bill ([HB 1692](#)) that would require the state to adopt and fund the 24-credit Career and College Graduation Requirements developed by the State Board of Education and required by HB 2261.
 - Status: This bill reached the House floor, but was not been voted on. However, because this bill has budget implications it will likely move forward at a later time.
 - Details: While supportive of the bill, we asked have communicated to legislators that we would like to see the graduation requirements implemented earlier. Under the current timeline, the first class to graduate with this new diploma, the class of 2021, was in Kindergarten when the state first made a commitment to developing these new requirements in 2009.
- **Enroll and support all students in career- and college-prep programs of study.**
 - Companion bills [SB 5243](#)- (Sen. Litzow) and [HB 1642](#) (Rep. Pettigrew) would establish an academic acceleration program in districts statewide.
 - Status: Both of bills passed off the floor of their respective chambers with overwhelming bipartisan support and will now be considered by the opposite chamber. SB 5243 will be heard in the House education committee today, March 15, and HB 1642 will be heard by the Senate on Tuesday, March 19th at 1:30 pm.

- **Details:** Both bills are modeled after Federal Way’s academic acceleration program where students are automatically enrolled in the most advanced coursework they are ready for. In Federal Way this has resulted in 200% increase in the number of students of color and from low-income families taking college-credit bearing courses, like Advanced Placement (AP). Performance on state assessments is used to determine which students are ready for the challenge. The bills provide incentive funding to support and reward districts in increasing the number of students enrolled in such programs. In the current House version, adoption of the policy is optional, while it is required for districts in the Senate version.
- **Invest in policies and programs that advance student learning and hold districts accountable for student outcomes.**
 - Companion bills [SB 5329](#) (Sen. Litzow) and [HB 1641](#) (Rep. Pettigrew) would create a state-based system for transforming persistently struggling schools.
 - **Status:** SB 5329 was passed out of the Senate last week on a vote of 30-19 and will be heard in the House education committee today, March 15. HB 1641 never received a hearing in the House education committee.
 - **Details:** SB 5329 provides state-funding for 10 schools identified as persistently low-performing by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to implement improvement plans developed by local districts that include options to replace the school leader, reconstitute the staff, convert to a charter school, partner with a university, or close the school. If after 3 years, the school remains one of the state’s lowest-performing schools, the State Superintendent is authorized to assume control of the school and bring leadership, innovation, and resources to the improvement efforts using one of the improvement options described above.