

**PILOT PROGRAM FOR WAIVERS FROM THE 180-SCHOOL DAY REQUIREMENT
FOR THE PURPOSES OF ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY**

BACKGROUND

The pilot program established by SHB 1292 provides the State Board of Education (SBE) authority to provide waivers from the 180-school day requirement for the purposes of economy and efficiency. This is an additional waiver authority the SBE has to grant waivers from the Basic Education Act requirements for the purposes of restructuring to enhance the educational program for each student (RCW 28A.305.140).

For the pilot program, SBE will adopt criteria to evaluate waiver requests, which will include criteria outlined in the legislation and can include other criteria determined by SBE. In addition, SBE will analyze evidence annually, to determine whether a waiver affects student learning.

The Waivers Committee prepared recommendations incorporating feedback from the July Board meeting, the public, legal counsel, and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction staff.

POLICY CONSIDERATION

The Waivers Committee recommends the following:

- A. Districts will meet the criteria for a first-time waiver by:
 1. Conducting one or more public hearings on the proposal.
 2. Providing a proposed calendar.
 3. Providing a resolution signed by the district board of directors with assurances that the district will:
 - Meet the annual average 1,000 hours of instructional hour offerings.
 - Discontinue the flexible calendar as soon as possible if the State Board of Education determines that student learning is adversely affected.
 - Collect and provide at the end of each year data on:
 - Attendance rates of students and teachers.
 - Satisfaction surveys of parents, students, and teachers with a target of 60% or greater participation rate for each group.
 4. Completing the application which contains items required by legislation and the following items established by SBE:
 - Explain the effect a waiver will have on the district's financial position.
 - Show how content is being accommodated from the waived days to the remaining days for elementary and secondary grades levels.
 - Identify assessments and observations the district will use to analyze student achievement.
 - Provide a base-line of student achievement data.

- B. If more than the allowable number of districts meets the criteria to receive a waiver at any given meeting then a lottery will determine which districts will receive waivers.
- C. Acceptable indicators for determining effects on student learning can include results of Washington State assessments, attendance rates, dropout rates, and graduation rates. SBE will determine the suitability of other assessments used by school districts on a case-by-case basis.
- D. Due to the difficulty of assessing an effect on student learning after only one year, SBE will make a determination at the end of the second and third years of a waiver, unless circumstances dictate otherwise.

EXPECTED ACTION

Adoption of the recommendations from the Waiver Committee on the application, criteria, selection of districts, and determining affect on student learning. If adopted, SBE can consider the first applications at the November Board Meeting.

Application for a PILOT PROGRAM Waiver from the Basic Education Program Requirements for the Purposes of Economy and Efficiency

The legislature gave the State Board of Education the authority, through a pilot program, to grant waivers from the basic education program requirement of 180 school days for the purposes of economy and efficiency (SHB 1292). The requirement that school districts offer an annual average instructional hour offering of at least one thousand hours cannot be waived. No more than five districts may be granted waivers- two of the five waivers will be for school districts with less than one hundred fifty students and three of the waivers will be for school districts with between one hundred fifty-one and five hundred students. Waivers may be granted for up to three years, and all waivers granted under this pilot program expire no later than August 31, 2014.

SBE will analyze empirical evidence annually from school districts with waivers to determine whether the reduction in days is affecting student learning. If SBE determines that student learning is adversely affected, SBE will notify the school district to discontinue the flexible calendar as soon as possible and no later than the beginning of the next school year after the determination has been made.

Directions:

Waiver requestors must use this Waiver Application Form and submit it in full to the State Board of Education at least thirty (30) days prior to the SBE meeting where consideration of the waiver will occur. Districts or schools are responsible for finding out when the State Board of Education meetings are held. The Board's meeting schedule is posted on its website <http://www.sbe.wa.gov> or may be obtained by contacting the Board by calling 360.725.6025 or emailing to sbe@k12.wa.us.

The application must be accompanied by a **proposed calendar** for the school day and school year that demonstrates how the instructional hour requirement will be maintained and a resolution adopted and signed by the district board of directors requesting the waiver. The **resolution shall include:**

- The number of days and the school years for the requested waiver.
- A statement of understanding that at the end of each school year, if the State Board of Education determines that student learning is adversely affected, the school district shall discontinue the flexible calendar as soon as possible but not later than the beginning of the next school year after the determination has been made.
- Assurance that the district will:
 - Meet the annual average 1,000 hours of instructional hour offerings (RCW 28A.150.220 and WAC 180-16-215).
 - Collect and provide data on school attendance rates of students and teachers and satisfaction surveys of parents, students, and teachers with a target of 60% or greater participation rate from each group.

A waiver granted under this pilot program does not relieve the district of meeting requirements specified in the rules of the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction and other agencies. Waivers granted under this pilot program **may impact the district's transportation funding**

and other types of funding. Please contact the appropriate agencies to determine any potential impact.

Complete applications (resolution, proposed calendars, application form, and supporting documents) should be submitted to: Brad Burnham, The Washington State Board of Education, P.O. Box 47206, Olympia, WA 98504-7206; 360-725-6029; Fax 360-586-2357; brad.burnham@k12.wa.us

Contact Information:

Name	
Title	
School District	
Phone	
Email	
Mailing Address	

Student Count:

	Count	Year
Most recent Student Count for the district? (please identify year)		
Estimate for the next student count? (if available)		

Current waiver status:

Any active waivers?	
If yes, please identify.	

Is the request for all schools in the district?

Yes or No	
If no, which schools or grades?	

How many days are being requested to be waived and for which school years?

Number of Days	
School Years	

Will the district still meet the requirement under RCW 28A.150.220 that school districts offer an annual average instructional hour offering of at least one thousand hours?

Yes or No	
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Details of Request:

(Please include as much detail as possible. The spaces will expand as you type or paste text)

Item 1: Gains from compressing the instructional hours into fewer than one hundred eighty days:

a. Explain and estimate the economies to be gained.

b. Explain and estimate the efficiencies to be gained.

Item 2: Explain the effect that the waiver will have on the financial position of the district.

Item 3: Explain how monetary savings from the proposal will be redirected to support student learning.

Item 4: Summarize the comments received at one or more public hearings on the proposal and how concerns will be addressed.

Item 5: Child nutrition program:

a. Explain the impact on students who rely upon free and reduced-price school child nutrition services.

b. Explain the impact on the ability of the child nutrition program to operate an economically independent program.

Item 6: Explain the impact on the ability to recruit and retain employees in education support positions.

Item 7: Explain the impact on students whose parents work during the missed school day.

Item 8: Explain how content is being accommodated from the waived days to the remaining days for elementary and secondary grades levels.

Item 9: Student achievement:

- a. Describe the assessments and observations will the district use to analyze student achievement over the course of the waiver?**
- b. Provide a set of student achievement data for the two previously-analyzed years (provide attachments, if preferred).**

Last Steps

- Please print a copy for your records.
- Email or mail the school board resolution, proposed calendars, supporting documents, and this application to the email or mailing address on the first page.
- Thank you for completing this application.