



Implementation Issues With the New 1080/1000 Hour BEA Requirement

1. In addition to the increase to 1080 hours for grades 7–12, the new law moves from averaging across grades to requiring specific hours for each grade. This could also create a need for increased hours in grades 1–6 to reach the 1000 hours per grade level. This requirement also applies to any state-funded all-day Kindergarten classes.
2. The 1080-hour requirement represents 180 days with six full hours of instruction (inclusive of passing periods). RCW 28A.150.205 defines instruction hours as “inclusive of intermissions for class changes, recess, and teacher/parent-guardian conferences ... and exclusive of time actually spent for meals.”
3. The State Board of Education (SBE) has rule making authority in this area. No rules have been drafted at this point but according to Ben Rarick, the SBE Executive Director, the only time that can be counted for compliance is between the start of first period and the end of the last period. Supervision time before or after those times, or classes offered outside the normal school day, cannot be counted.
4. SBE waivers of the 180-day requirement do not waive the old 1000-hour BEA requirement and presumably will not waive the new 1080/1000-hour requirement. There are 35 school districts with waivers for 2014–15 or beyond that may no longer qualify under the new BEA requirement.
5. RCW 28A.150.220 (5) allows a reduction of up to five school days in the 180-day requirement for graduating seniors. That statute is silent about waiving the BEA hours; so without further clarification, districts may not be able to release seniors early.
6. To the degree that a school district does not already meet the 1080/1000-hour requirement, negotiations with bargaining units may be necessary to extend the instructional day and/or eliminate professional development early release/late start days that may have been previously bargained.
7. For most school districts, it appears that the increased funding for the 1080 hour-requirement may not cover the costs.
8. School districts face the possibility of negotiating different compensation packages for teachers in grades 7–12, or funding the cost from local resources to increase K–6 teachers to the same compensation level.