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From: [Kim Howard](#)

Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2009 4:37 PM

Subject: Senate passage of 2261

It wasn't easy, but we got it done....at least in the Senate. Next the bill moves back to the House. We expect that since the two bills are very close, there will be a concurrence vote. This means that the House members will simply vote "yes" or "no" with no amendments. We do not know yet when this will take place.

In the meantime, we need to thank Senate members who voted in support of this legislation and continue to encourage House members to vote "yes" again. At this point I am recommending emails, phone calls and checking in with your legislators in person if you can. Personal visits have been a very effective strategy in keeping this legislation on top of their agendas this session.

The major argument against the bill in the Senate was that there is no funding attached, besides what has been set aside for the work groups in each budget. We have said all along that once we get a strong definition of basic education and work out the formulas, we will work to develop appropriate funding sources for full implementation. Many do not believe that this will happen. We will need to help prove them wrong.

These are imperfect, but close quotes from a few folks who supported the bill. Simply due to time constraints, I am not including everyone. I recommend listening to the audiotape on tvw. Landmark legislation like this does inspire folks to orate. Whether they are for or against, it is worthwhile to listen to what was said.

Sen. Ranker: My constituents and my friends talk about fixing education. This is meaningful legislation that sets us on a path to a better education system.

Sen. Jarrett: I want an education system that we can be proud of, one that is like our economy, one that will allow our kids to get the high paying jobs, not ones with the papers hats...

Sen. McAuliffe spoke several times very eloquently in opposition to amendments which would have significantly weakened the bill and in favor of final passage.

Sen. Kohl-Welles: We have had a long time to think about what we need in basic education. I actually want more than what is in this bill. We have to move forward.

To give you a sense of the current bill that was just passed, below are the main amendments to the previous bill:

Includes:

- **Increased instructional hours**

1000 - 1080, according to an implementation schedule adopted by the Legislature.

- **Opportunity to complete 24 credits** high school graduation (*subject to Legislative phase-in*)

- Transportation to & from school (**using new funding formula based on predicted costs phased in beginning 2013**)

- **All-day Kindergarten** (*continue to phase-in highest poverty schools first*)

- **Highly Capable** (*at current 2.314% of student enrollment*)

- **Early Learning**

Intent to establish program for at-risk children as **basic education**.

Creates a **work group** to develop program, as a Washington Head Start program, & **report to Quality Education Council**.

Full implementation by 2018.

Creates core allocation, **including enhancements** for highly capable, CTE, AP & IB, with **additional categories and details** specified, including staffing categories. Placed into statute. Effective 2011.

Legislature intends that the redefined program of basic education and funding for the program in accordance with a schedule adopted by the Legislature and to be **fully implemented by 2018**.

Requires OSPI to **biennially report** to the Legislature **on the capacity of the system** & recommend how to address the limitations but implementation is not based on capacity.

Quality Commission for Education is created to develop an implementation schedule and for ongoing oversight.

4 work groups are created:

- Finance – to create details of the formulas and recommend revenue sources
- Supplemental Funding
- Compensation
- Early Learning

The revenue piece that was in the last version was removed. The feeling was that it was inadequate and that a complete revenue plan needs to be developed.

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