

RCW 28A.715.800 Modifications to school requirements—Pilot project. (Expires September 1, 2023.) (1) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall establish a pilot project for one or more schools that are the subject of a state-tribal education compact, schools also known as "tribal compact schools," to implement modifications to requirements governing school attendance, school year length, and assessments. Tribal compact schools that apply to the office of the superintendent of public instruction to participate in the pilot project must be included in the pilot project.

(2) The purpose of the pilot project is to grant participating schools flexibility regarding:

(a) Accommodating cultural, fisheries, and agricultural events and practices; and

(b) Replacing, to the maximum extent permitted by state and federal law, statewide student assessments with locally developed assessments that are culturally relevant, based on community standards, and aligned with the Washington state learning standards.

(3) Schools participating in the pilot project may:

(a) Request a waiver, in accordance with RCW 28A.300.109, to the requirement for a one hundred eighty-day school year established in RCW 28A.150.220. The waiver requested in accordance with this subsection (3)(a) may be for allowing additional instructional days, including an allowance for year-round instruction;

(b) Develop curricula that links student learning with engagement in cultural, fisheries, and agricultural programs, and aligns with the Washington state learning standards;

(c) Request authorization to consider student participation in cultural, fisheries, or agricultural programs as instructional days for the purposes of RCW 28A.150.220(5);

(d) Replace, to the maximum extent permitted by state and federal law, statewide student assessments with locally developed assessments that are culturally relevant, based on community standards, and aligned with the Washington state learning standards; and

(e) Consider and implement, to the maximum extent permitted by state and federal law, other modifications to requirements as determined by each participating school.

(4) The office of native education within the office of the superintendent of public instruction must collaborate with each tribal compact school participating in the pilot project, including providing technical support and assistance, and review any terms of the compact that relate to the school's implementation of the pilot project.

(5) The office of the superintendent of public instruction, in establishing the pilot project required by this section, shall explore and pursue options for granting flexibility to participating schools from state and federal requirements, including requirements related to assessments, to further the purpose of the pilot project as expressed in subsection (2) of this section.

(6) If requested by a tribal compact school participating or intending to participate in the pilot project, the superintendent of public instruction shall convene a government-to-government meeting with the tribal compact school for the purpose of revising the compact to reflect the terms of the pilot project. The superintendent of public instruction may also convene a government-to-government meeting on his or her own accord.

(7) Nothing contained in this section is intended or may be construed to limit the amount of funding allocated to tribal compact schools participating in the pilot project.

(8) (a) Each tribal compact school participating in the pilot project shall submit a report every two years to the appropriate committees of the house of representatives and senate and the office of the superintendent of public instruction, with the first report submitted no later than August 1, 2021.

(b) Reports submitted in accordance with this subsection (8) must include:

(i) Information about student performance on assessments required for state and federal accountability purposes and locally developed assessments under subsection (3) (d) of this section, including differences in student performance between the statewide and locally developed assessments; and

(ii) Recommendations for lessening or removing barriers that may affect either student performance on assessments, the effective administration of assessments, or both.

(c) The final report of each participating school must include a recommendation of whether the pilot project should be modified, continued, expanded, or discontinued.

(d) Reports submitted to the house of representatives and the senate in accordance with this subsection (8) must comply with RCW 43.01.036.

(9) The pilot project expires August 1, 2023.

(10) This section expires September 1, 2023. [2018 c 290 § 1.]

Conflict with federal requirements—2018 c 290: "If any part of this act is found to be in conflict with federal requirements that are a prescribed condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state, the conflicting part of this act is inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict and with respect to the agencies directly affected, and this finding does not affect the operation of the remainder of this act in its application to the agencies concerned. Rules adopted under this act must meet federal requirements that are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal funds by the state." [2018 c 290 § 4.]