

**2SHB 1550** - S COMM AMD

By Committee on Early Learning &amp; K-12 Education

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300  
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 (1) The intent of the legislature is to continue and rename  
6 transitional kindergarten as the transition to kindergarten program  
7 and that the program be established in statute with the goal of  
8 assisting eligible children in need of additional preparation to be  
9 successful kindergarten students in the following school year. The  
10 transition to kindergarten program is not part of the state's program  
11 of basic education under Article IX of the state Constitution.

12 (2) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall  
13 administer the transition to kindergarten program and shall adopt  
14 rules under chapter 34.05 RCW for the administration of, and the  
15 allocation of state funding for the transition to kindergarten  
16 program. The rules developed by the office of the superintendent of  
17 public instruction must include, at a minimum, the following  
18 requirements for a transition to kindergarten program:

19 (a) A limitation on program enrollment to eligible children.  
20 Eligible children include only those who:

21 (i) Have been determined to benefit from additional preparation  
22 for kindergarten; and

23 (ii) Are at least four years old by August 31st of the year they  
24 enroll in the transition to kindergarten program.

25 (b) Except for children who have been excused from participation  
26 by their parents or legal guardians, a requirement that the  
27 Washington kindergarten inventory of developing skills as established  
28 by RCW 28A.655.080 be administered to all children enrolled in a  
29 transition to kindergarten program at the beginning of the child's  
30 enrollment in the program and at least one more time during the  
31 school year.

32 (c) A requirement that all eligible children enrolled in a  
33 transition to kindergarten be assigned a statewide student identifier

1 and that the transition to kindergarten program be considered a  
2 separate class or course for the purposes of data reporting  
3 requirements in RCW 28A.320.175.

4 (d) A requirement that school districts conduct a local child  
5 care and early learning needs assessment prior to beginning or  
6 expanding a transition to kindergarten program that considers the  
7 existing availability and affordability of early childhood education  
8 and assistance programs, head start programs, and licensed child care  
9 centers and family home providers in the region. School districts may  
10 use the data available through the regionalized data dashboard  
11 maintained by the department of children, youth, and families for  
12 purposes of conducting the needs assessment required by this  
13 subsection or any other sources the school districts deem  
14 appropriate.

15 (e)(i) A process for the department of children, youth, and  
16 families to conduct site visits of a school district offering a  
17 transition to kindergarten program and provide feedback to the  
18 district related to:

19 (A) Best practices for site readiness of facilities that will be  
20 used for the program;

21 (B) Developmentally appropriate curricula that might assist  
22 districts in maintaining high quality programs; and

23 (C) Professional development opportunities available through the  
24 department, organizations contracting with the department or  
25 educational service districts.

26 (ii) Site readiness visits by the department of children, youth,  
27 and families allowed under this subsection does not give the  
28 department any licensing or authorizing authority of school districts  
29 or schools.

30 (f) A prohibition of school districts from charging tuition or  
31 other fees to state-funded eligible children for enrollment in a  
32 transition to kindergarten program.

33 (g) A prohibition of school districts from establishing a policy  
34 of excluding an eligible child due only to the presence of a  
35 disability.

36 (3)(a) Funding for the transition to kindergarten program is  
37 based on the school district's reported full-time equivalent  
38 headcount of eligible children enrolled in the program and calculated  
39 according to the distribution formula established under RCW  
40 28A.150.260 (4)(a), (5), (6), (8), (10)(a) and (b), and the

1 allocation established under RCW 28A.160.150 through 28A.150.180. A  
2 transition to kindergarten child must be counted as a kindergarten  
3 student for purposes of the funding calculations referenced in this  
4 subsection, but must be reported separately. This funding is not part  
5 of the program of basic education and must be expended only for the  
6 support of operating a transition to kindergarten program.

7 (b) By December 1st of each odd-numbered year, the office of the  
8 superintendent of public instruction must make data available to the  
9 legislature that includes the number of state-funded eligible  
10 children enrolled in a transition to kindergarten program operated by  
11 school districts in the current school year.

12 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.225.160 and 2009 c 380 s 3 are each amended to  
13 read as follows:

14 (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section and  
15 otherwise provided by law, it is the general policy of the state that  
16 the common schools shall be open to the admission of all persons who  
17 are five years of age and less than (~~twenty-one~~) 21 years residing  
18 in that school district. Except as otherwise provided by law or rules  
19 adopted by the superintendent of public instruction, districts may  
20 establish uniform entry qualifications, including but not limited to  
21 birthdate requirements, for admission to kindergarten and first grade  
22 programs of the common schools. Such rules may provide for exceptions  
23 based upon the ability, or the need, or both, of an individual  
24 student, but these exceptions may not be used as a basis for  
25 developing a new basic education program. For the purpose of  
26 complying with any rule adopted by the superintendent of public  
27 instruction that authorizes a preadmission screening process as a  
28 prerequisite to granting exceptions to the uniform entry  
29 qualifications, a school district may collect fees to cover expenses  
30 incurred in the administration of any preadmission screening process:  
31 PROVIDED, That in so establishing such fee or fees, the district  
32 shall adopt rules for waiving and reducing such fees in the cases of  
33 those persons whose families, by reason of their low income, would  
34 have difficulty in paying the entire amount of such fees.

35 (2) A student who meets the definition of a child of a military  
36 family in transition under Article II of RCW 28A.705.010 shall be  
37 permitted to continue enrollment at the grade level in the common  
38 schools commensurate with the grade level of the student when

1 attending school in the sending state as defined in Article II of RCW  
2 28A.705.010, regardless of age or birthdate requirements."

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3 On page 1, line 4 of the title, after "program;" strike the  
4 remainder of the title and insert "amending RCW 28A.225.160; and  
5 adding a new section to chapter 28A.300 RCW."

EFFECT: Strikes the provisions of the underlying bill and replaces it with the following:

(1) States that the intent of the legislature is to continue and rename Transitional Kindergarten as the Transition to Kindergarten program and this program is not part of the state's program of basic education under Article IX of the State Constitution.

(2) Directs the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to administer the Transition to Kindergarten program.

(3) Requires OSPI to adopt rules for the administration of and the allocation of state funding for the program and specifies minimum requirements for the OSPI rules.

(4) Provides a funding formula for the Transition to Kindergarten program.

(5) Directs OSPI to make data available each odd-numbered year to the Legislature that includes the number of state-funded eligible children enrolled in a Transition to Kindergarten program.

(6) States that individual exceptions for admission to kindergarten and first grade programs of the common schools may not be used as a basis for developing a new basic education program.

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