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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5102**

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**State of Washington**

**68th Legislature**

**2023 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education (originally sponsored by Senators Wellman, Frame, Hunt, Llias, Saldaña, Trudeau, Valdez, and C. Wilson)

READ FIRST TIME 02/08/23.

1 AN ACT Relating to school library information and technology  
2 programs; amending RCW 28A.320.240; adding new sections to chapter  
3 28A.320 RCW; and creating a new section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that students with  
6 access to school library information and technology programs staffed  
7 by qualified teacher-librarians have improved school and life  
8 outcomes, including higher academic achievement, increased graduation  
9 rates, and increased preparedness for college or career pathways.  
10 Unfortunately, not all students have access to these programs  
11 statewide, leading to disparate outcomes. Lack of access to these  
12 programs disproportionately impacts low-income families and families  
13 of color. Recent findings show that access to high-quality school  
14 libraries was one of the most significant factors in closing the  
15 literacy gap for students experiencing poverty. Additionally, the  
16 legislature finds that the rise of misinformation and disinformation  
17 available through the internet necessitates comprehensive instruction  
18 by a qualified teacher-librarian in information literacy, digital  
19 citizenship, and media literacy for all K-12 students. The value of  
20 these programs was apparent during the COVID-19 pandemic. School  
21 districts with qualified teacher-librarians and strong school library

1 information and technology programs were better able to support  
2 teachers, students, and families during remote learning.

3 The legislature has shown support for school library information  
4 and technology programs through the passage of legislation clearly  
5 defining both programs and teacher-librarians. These programs have  
6 been acknowledged as critically important to supporting state-  
7 mandated learning goals, essential academic learning requirements,  
8 and high school graduation requirements through inclusion of both  
9 teacher-librarians and library materials as part of basic education  
10 in the prototypical school model. Teacher-librarians are seen as  
11 critical partners in the education of our students including in the  
12 equitable and successful use of educational technology. Despite this  
13 continued support from the legislature, data shows large areas of  
14 Washington where students do not have access to school library  
15 information and technology programs staffed by qualified teacher-  
16 librarians.

17 The legislature intends to provide access to high-quality school  
18 library information and technology programs with qualified teacher-  
19 librarians for students and staff at all K-12 levels while also  
20 recognizing the value of allowing local school boards to decide how  
21 to most effectively implement these essential programs for their  
22 schools and students.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.320  
24 RCW to read as follows:

25 By September 1, 2024, each school district must adopt or amend:

26 (1) A policy that acknowledges the requirement for boards of  
27 directors to provide every student with access to school library  
28 information and technology programs as specified in RCW 28A.320.240;  
29 and

30 (2) Procedures that describe how students can access school  
31 library information and technology resources and materials.

32 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.320.240 and 2015 c 27 s 1 are each amended to  
33 read as follows:

34 (1) The purpose of this section is to identify quality criteria  
35 for school library information and technology programs that support  
36 the student learning goals under RCW 28A.150.210, the (~~essential  
37 academic learning requirements~~) state learning standards under RCW

1 28A.655.070, and high school graduation requirements adopted under  
2 RCW 28A.230.090.

3 (2) Every board of directors shall provide resources and  
4 materials for the operation of a school library information and  
5 technology program~~((s as the board deems necessary for the proper~~  
6 ~~education of the district's students or as otherwise required by law~~  
7 ~~or rule of the superintendent of public instruction))~~ ensuring every  
8 student in the school district has access to a school library  
9 information and technology program as described in this section.

10 (3) "Teacher-librarian" means a certificated teacher with a  
11 library media endorsement under rules adopted by the professional  
12 educator standards board.

13 (4) (a) "School library information and technology program" means  
14 a school-based program that is staffed, except as provided under (b)  
15 of this subsection, by a certificated teacher-librarian and provides  
16 a broad, flexible array of services, resources, and instruction that  
17 support student mastery of the ~~((essential academic learning~~  
18 ~~requirements))~~ state learning standards and state standards in all  
19 subject areas and the implementation of the district's school  
20 improvement plan.

21 (b) A school district of the second class, as described in RCW  
22 28A.300.065, may staff a school library information and technology  
23 program with a noncertificated staff member if the district has made  
24 all reasonable efforts to staff the program with a certificated  
25 teacher-librarian. In such a circumstance, a school district is  
26 authorized and encouraged to partner with a nonprofit or government  
27 entity to provide staffing services including, but not limited to, a  
28 library or regional library as defined in RCW 27.12.010, or an  
29 institution of higher education as defined in RCW 28B.10.016.

30 (5) The teacher-librarian, through the school library information  
31 and technology program, shall collaborate as an instructional partner  
32 to help all students meet the content goals in all subject areas, and  
33 assist high school students completing high school and beyond plans  
34 required for graduation.

35 (6) The teacher-librarian's duties may include, but are not  
36 limited to, collaborating with his or her schools to:

37 (a) Integrate information and technology into curriculum and  
38 instruction, including but not limited to instructing other  
39 certificated staff about using and integrating information and

1 technology literacy into instruction through workshops, modeling  
2 lessons, and individual peer coaching;

3 (b) Provide information management instruction to students and  
4 staff about how to effectively use emerging learning technologies for  
5 school and lifelong learning, as well as in the appropriate use of  
6 computers and mobile devices in an educational setting;

7 (c) Help teachers and students efficiently and effectively access  
8 the highest quality information available while using information  
9 ethically;

10 (d) Instruct students in digital citizenship including how to be  
11 critical consumers of information and provide guidance about  
12 thoughtful and strategic use of online resources; and

13 (e) Create a culture of reading in the school community by  
14 developing a diverse, student-focused collection of materials that  
15 ensures all students can find something of quality to read and by  
16 facilitating school-wide reading initiatives along with providing  
17 individual support and guidance for students.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.320  
19 RCW to read as follows:

20 The superintendent of public instruction will provide data,  
21 information, best practices, and other assistance to help facilitate  
22 school district implementation of this act.

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