

SENATE FILE NO. SF0078

Education-dual language immersion programs.

Sponsored by: Senator(s) Wasserburger and Rothfuss and Representative(s) Stubson

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to public schools; expanding a financial
2 assistance program through the department of education to
3 continue dual language immersion programs within public
4 schools; granting rulemaking authority and imposing
5 reporting requirements; providing an appropriation; and
6 providing for effective dates.

7

8 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

9

10 **Section 1.** W.S. 21-13-336 is created to read:

11

12 **21-13-336. Supplemental financial assistance for dual**
13 **language immersion programs.**

14

1 (a) Supplemental financial assistance for dual
2 language immersion programs shall be available to school
3 districts to augment resources contained within the
4 education resource block grant model for instruction in
5 foreign languages. Upon qualification, schools within any
6 school district may receive supplemental financial
7 assistance under this section for offering foreign language
8 programs requiring use of a target foreign language during
9 not less than fifty percent (50%) of student-teacher
10 contact time during each school day of student enrollment
11 in the program.

12

13 (b) Supplemental financial assistance under this
14 section provided by the department shall be used by school
15 districts to initiate dual immersion programs within its
16 schools. On behalf of any school within the district, a
17 school district may apply to the department of education
18 for supplemental financial assistance under this section on
19 or before April 15 of the school year immediately preceding
20 the school year of which financial assistance is requested.
21 Application shall be on a form and in a manner prescribed
22 by the department and application review and selection
23 shall be in accordance with a process established by

1 department rule and regulation which is based upon
2 demonstrated ability of the applicant school to completely
3 and effectively implement a dual immersion program with the
4 receipt of supplemental financial assistance under this
5 section.

6
7 (c) Expenditures of financial assistance under this
8 section shall be restricted to training and acquisition of
9 instructional capacity necessary to initiate a dual
10 immersion program within the school. Assistance under this
11 section for any qualifying school within an applicant
12 district shall be limited to twenty thousand dollars
13 (\$20,000.00), plus one hundred percent (100%) reimbursement
14 of the amount actually expended by the applicant district
15 to obtain a United States visa for an instructor to teach
16 courses in accordance with this section, if applicable.
17 Supporting documentation, such as receipts, invoices or
18 other documentation identified by rule and regulation of
19 the department, shall be submitted with the request for
20 reimbursement. Upon receipt of assistance under this
21 section, that one (1) school within the district shall not
22 again be eligible to receive assistance under this section.

23

1 (d) The department shall notify each applicant
2 district of the eligibility of any school within the
3 district to receive financial assistance by May 1 of the
4 school year preceding that school year for which
5 application is made, together with the estimated amount to
6 be available to the district for that school for the
7 applicable school year. Assistance shall be distributed by
8 the department on or before August 15 of the applicable
9 school year.

10
11 (e) Financial assistance to each qualifying school
12 within an applicant school district shall be made by the
13 department from amounts appropriated by the legislature
14 from the school foundation program account for purposes of
15 the program established by this section, and shall be in
16 addition to the foundation program amount computed for that
17 district under W.S. 21-13-309(p). If there is an
18 insufficient amount within the foundation program account
19 from amounts appropriated by the legislature for financial
20 assistance under this section for any school year, the
21 department shall make a pro rata reduction in financial
22 assistance payments among all qualifying schools within
23 applicant districts for that school year. The department

1 may withhold a portion or the entire amount to be
2 distributed to any school under this section until receipt
3 of appropriate documentation verifying proper expenditure
4 in accordance with this section. Any appropriated amounts
5 not expended or encumbered under this section as of July 1
6 of that school year immediately following the school year
7 for which the appropriation applies shall revert to the
8 foundation program account.

9

10 (f) Each recipient district shall report to the
11 department of education on expenditures of amounts
12 distributed under this section by July 1 of that school
13 year immediately following that school year for which
14 payment of supplemental assistance was received by that
15 district.

16

17 **Section 2.** 2014 Wyoming Session Laws, Chapter 26,
18 Section 2, Section 206, Footnote 6 is repealed.

19

20 **Section 3.** The department of education shall
21 promulgate rules and regulations implementing the
22 application and selection process for eligibility to
23 receive supplemental finance assistance under W.S.

1 21-13-336, as created under section 1 of this act, in
2 sufficient time to inform school districts of the
3 availability of supplemental assistance under this act, and
4 in sufficient time for districts to submit application for
5 assistance by April 15, 2015.

6

7 **Section 4.**

8

9 (a) For the period commencing July 1, 2015 and ending
10 June 30, 2016, up to four hundred thousand dollars
11 (\$400,000.00) is appropriated from the school foundation
12 program account for purposes of funding the supplemental
13 financial assistance program under W.S. 21-13-336, as
14 created under section 1 of this act. The department shall
15 report expenditures of amounts appropriated under this
16 subsection to members of the joint education interim
17 committee on or before November 1, 2015.

18

19 (b) The funds appropriated by subsection (a) of this
20 section shall be reduced by any unexpended funds
21 appropriated to the department of education by 2014 Wyoming
22 Session Laws, Chapter 26, Section 2, Section 206, Footnote
23 6 as of June 30, 2015 and any remaining funds shall be

1 utilized for the purpose of funding the supplemental
2 financial assistance program under W.S. 21-13-336, as
3 created under section 1 of this act.

4

5 (c) For the period commencing on the effective date
6 of this act and ending June 30, 2016, the department of
7 education is authorized two (2) permanent full-time
8 positions. The positions shall be classified as one (1)
9 executive management 2, or the equivalent thereof, and one
10 (1) office support specialist, or the equivalent thereof.
11 In addition to any other appropriation to the department by
12 this act, there is appropriated not to exceed one hundred
13 eighty-five thousand dollars (\$185,000.00) for the salary
14 and benefits of the department employees under this
15 section. The two (2) positions authorized by this section
16 shall be included in the department's 2017-2018 standard
17 budget request.

18

19 **Section 5.**

20

21 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this
22 section, this act is effective July 1, 2015.

23

1 (b) Sections 3 and 4(b) and (c) of this act are
2 effective immediately upon completion of all acts necessary
3 for a bill to become law as provided by Article 4, Section
4 8 of the Wyoming Constitution.

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6

(END)