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Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
Chris Reykdal, Superintendent

k12.wa.us

May 17, 2024

Action Required

Due date:

Informational

BULLETIN NO. 033-24 OFFICE OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

TO: Educational Service District Superintendents
School District Superintendents
School District Business Managers

FROM: Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: Economy and Efficiency Waiver changes (HB 2381)

CONTACT: Jennifer Stevens, Waiver Coordinator, Legal Affairs Division
360-764-3602, jennifer.stevens@k12.wa.us

SUMMARY

In March 2024, the legislature passed [HB 2381](#), expanding the use of what are commonly referred to as Economy and Efficiency Waivers allowed under [RCW 28A.150.222](#). Effective June 6, 2024, up to 30 school districts with student populations of less than 1,000 students may receive these waivers. Economy and Efficiency Waivers allow school districts to receive a waiver from the 180-day requirement under [RCW 28A.150.220](#), but still maintain the minimum instructional hours required under the same law. This typically results in school districts holding classes four days per week, but for longer days in order to meet their hourly requirements.

BACKGROUND

OSPI usually receives applications for Economy and Efficiency Waivers in the spring prior to the school year when the waiver goes into effect. However, given the timing of the legislature's actions, OSPI will allow for school districts to apply for Economy and Efficiency Waivers for the 2024-25 school year in the summer of 2024 after the law is changed.

REQUIREMENTS

School districts that meet the qualifying criteria may [submit an application](#) to OSPI by Friday June 14, 2024. OSPI will review the applications and will have decisions made no later than June 28, 2024.

Because of the impact a four-day school week has on a community, the application for an Economy and Efficiency Waiver requires community involvement. At a minimum, the applications must include the following:

- a) A proposed calendar for the school day and school year that demonstrates how the instructional hour requirement will be maintained;
- b) An explanation and estimate of the economies and efficiencies to be gained from compressing the instructional hours into fewer than one hundred eighty days;
- c) An explanation of how monetary savings from the proposal will be redirected to support student learning;
- d) A summary of comments received at one or more public hearings on the proposal and how concerns will be addressed;
- e) An explanation of the impact on students who rely upon free and reduced-price school child nutrition services and the impact on the ability of the child nutrition program to operate an economically independent program;
- f) An explanation of the impact on employees in education support positions, **including expected position and work hour reductions, reductions in force, and the loss of work benefits or eligibility for work benefits**, and the ability to recruit and retain employees in education support positions; (emphasis on language added by HB 2381)
- g) An explanation of the impact on students whose parents work during the missed school day; and
- h) Other information that the superintendent of public instruction may request to assure that the proposed flexible calendar will not adversely affect student learning.

INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

For questions regarding this bulletin, please contact Jennifer Stevens, Waivers Coordinator, Legal Affairs Division, at 360-764-3603 or email Jennifer.stevens@k12.wa.us.

This bulletin is also available on the [Bulletins](#) page of the OSPI website.

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Tennille Jeffries-Simmons
Chief of Staff

Matt Schultz
Chief Legal and Civil Rights Officer
Office of Legal Affairs

CR:js

Attachment: Economy and Efficiency Waiver application (effective June 6, 2024)

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