

BASIC EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

PURPOSE: This section provides documentation and information related to the basic education requirements.

OSPI Authority for Adopting Rules, Regulations, and Regulatory Guidance

The Superintendent of Public Instruction has the authority to make such rules and regulations as are necessary for the proper administration of the program of basic education and the distribution formula for the allocation of basic education funds and other funds as provided in RCW 28A.150.290 and various other statutes. Consistent with that authority, the superintendent of public instruction adopts and amends rules within section 392 of the Washington Administrative Code and other regulatory guidance contained within instruction manuals published on the OSPI website. Regulatory guidance includes enrollment reporting requirements, personnel reporting requirements, budget and financial reporting requirements, and timelines for reporting data as necessary to administer state education funds.

Minimum Requirements for the Provision of Basic Education and Related Funding

Mandatory elements of the Basic Education compliance are those which must be present within the education program in every school district and LEA in order to receive the full allocations of basic education through the distribution formulas administered by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. These include, but are not limited to:

Adherence to the basic education compliance requirements found in RCW 28A.150.220 related to the number of hours and number of school days per year:

- Each school district is required to offer district-wide average of at least 1,000 hours in grades 1–8 and at least 1,080 hours in grades 9–12. A districtwide weighted average of 1,026 hours is allowed in accordance with established rules.
- Each school district's kindergarten through 12th grade basic educational program shall consist of a minimum of 180 school days per school year in each grade.



- Waivers are available for specific circumstances. Waivers are administered and authorized by the Superintendent of Public Instruction or the State Board of Education depending on the type of waiver requested.

Adherence to learning standards and instructional requirements established in law:

- Instruction in the state learning standards under RCW 28A.655.070;
- Instruction that provides students the opportunity to complete 24 credits for high school graduation.
- Supplemental instruction and services for students who are not meeting academic standards through the learning assistance program under RCW 28A.165.005 through 28A.165.065.
- Supplemental instruction and services for eligible and enrolled students and exited students whose primary language is other than English through the transitional bilingual instruction program under RCW 28A.180.010 through 28A.180.080.
- The opportunity for an appropriate education at public expense as defined by RCW 28A.155.020 for all eligible students with disabilities as defined in RCW 28A.155.020.
- Programs for highly capable students under RCW 28A.185.010 through 28A.185.030

Adherence to staffing standards established by law:

- Each school district shall maintain a ratio of at least 46 basic education certificated instructional staff to 1,000 annual average full-time equivalent students as defined in RCW 28A.150.100. This requirement does not apply to that portion of a district's annual average full-time equivalent enrollment that is enrolled in alternative learning experience courses as defined in RCW 28A.232.010.
- Every school district must establish a salary and compensation schedule for all district employees in conformance with the requirements of RCW 28A.400.200. This includes compliance with the minimum and maximum salaries for certificated staff applicable to the state's statutory program of basic education.

Adherence to requirements to protect students' safety, education access, and privacy as provided by law (Chapter 369, Section 101, Laws of 2025 to be added to RCW 28A.230):

- School districts must prioritize the protection of every student's safety, access to a free public education, and privacy, to the fullest extent possible, except as required by state or federal law.

Noncompliance, Technical Assistance and Remedies

Districts identified as non-compliant with any of the above deficiencies will be provided notice of the deficiency and the requested remedy. The office of superintendent of public instruction will provide technical assistance to districts who request assistance with compliance.

The superintendent of public instruction may enact sanctions to enforce compliance with the mandatory program of basic education in accordance with its rules and statutes. This may include the withholding of all or part of state apportionment funding.