

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0170

Public schools-foreign language pilot project.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Hageman, Berger, McOmie
and Robinson and Senator(s) Devin and Scott

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to public schools; establishing a pilot
2 project for expansion of foreign language instruction
3 through grade six (6); prescribing project components;
4 imposing requirements upon participant schools; providing
5 for program implementation and administration through the
6 state superintendent; delegating rulemaking authority;
7 imposing reporting requirements; imposing a limitation on
8 the pilot project; providing an appropriation; authorizing
9 a position; and providing for an effective date.

10

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

12

13 **Section 1.**

14

1 (a) The state superintendent of public instruction
2 shall offer a pilot project for elementary foreign language
3 instruction. The project shall:

4

5 (i) Be administered by the state superintendent
6 through the department of education;

7

8 (ii) Operate for a period of five (5) school
9 years, commencing with school year 2004-2005 and
10 terminating school year 2009-2010;

11

12 (iii) Expand existing foreign language
13 instruction in up to fifty (50) elementary schools within
14 the state from kindergarten through grade two (2) as
15 required under W.S. 21-9-101(g), to kindergarten through
16 grade six (6);

17

18 (iv) Identify and develop technology-supported
19 program materials for grades three (3) through six (6) to
20 be implemented in the participating pilot project schools
21 in at least one (1) grade level each year beginning in
22 school year 2004-2005 with grade three (3);

23

1 (v) In cooperation with the University of
2 Wyoming, establish initial and on-going training and
3 professional development for teachers and teacher
4 assistants;

5

6 (vi) Identify and develop and implement an
7 assessment of student foreign language skills;

8

9 (vii) Develop and implement a distance-learning
10 demonstration program for schools unable to acquire
11 qualified teacher assistants.

12

13 (b) Participation in the pilot project shall be based
14 upon application submitted to the department of education
15 not later than July 1, 2004, on a form and in a manner
16 prescribed by the state superintendent, indicating the
17 commitment and capability of the school to provide expanded
18 foreign language instruction, including:

19

20 (i) Provision of weekly foreign language
21 instruction at minimum levels prescribed by the state
22 superintendent;

23

1 (ii) Participate in assessment and data
2 collection efforts measuring and describing student foreign
3 language achievement;

4
5 (iii) School administration and board support
6 for project participation.

7
8 (c) The state superintendent shall as soon as
9 reasonably possible following the effective date of this
10 act, notify school districts of the pilot project
11 established under this section and the eligibility
12 requirements for project participation. The state
13 superintendent shall select schools participating in the
14 pilot project from among applicants without regard to
15 school size, location or district, and shall notify
16 applicants of the decision by not later than August 1,
17 2004.

18
19 (d) The state superintendent shall promulgate rules
20 and regulations establishing and implementing the pilot
21 project in accordance with this section.

22
23 (e) Each participating school shall provide necessary
24 information and other assistance required by the state

1 superintendent to develop and implement elementary foreign
2 language instruction and shall prepare and submit reports
3 required by the state superintendent to administer, review
4 and evaluate the pilot project.

5

6 (f) Not later than November 1, 2005, the state
7 superintendent shall report to the joint appropriations
8 interim committee and the joint education interim committee
9 on project development and implementation, findings
10 resulting from project review, student achievement and
11 shall provide recommendations for continuance of the
12 project and if continued, future project enhancement and
13 effective operation. The report shall also include a
14 detailed explanation of project expenditures and the
15 position filled for project administration and the status
16 of the position.

17

18 (g) If fewer than ten (10) elementary schools in the
19 state apply to participate in this pilot project by July 1,
20 2004, or if fewer than ten (10) elementary schools are
21 actively participating in the pilot project by July 1,
22 2005, the superintendent shall discontinue the pilot
23 project offered under this act.

24

1 **Section 2.** Two million dollars (\$2,000,000.00) is
2 appropriated from the school foundation program account to
3 the state superintendent of public instruction to commence
4 development and implementation of section 1 of this act for
5 two (2) of five (5) years of the pilot project, school
6 years 2004-2005 through 2005-2006. In addition, this
7 appropriation includes funding and authorization for one
8 (1) additional full-time position within the department of
9 education or the equivalent of one (1) full-time position
10 administered by the department of education.

11

12 **Section 3.** This act is effective immediately upon
13 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law
14 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming
15 Constitution.

16

17

(END)