

SSB 6223 - S AMD 575
By Senator Carlyle

ADOPTED 02/12/2018

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature intends with this act to
4 powerfully leverage current collaboration and investments to align
5 services, outcome measures, accountability, and resources to
6 facilitate educational equity by 2027 for children and youth in
7 foster care and children and youth experiencing homelessness. The
8 goal of this effort is that children and youth in foster care and
9 children and youth experiencing homelessness achieve educational
10 outcomes at the same rate as their general student population peers
11 throughout the educational continuum from preschool to postsecondary
12 education.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) For the purposes of this section,
14 "children and youth in foster care" means children and youth under
15 the placement and care authority of the department of children,
16 youth, and families, a federally recognized tribe, or another child-
17 placing agency; and children and youth who have experienced foster
18 care and have achieved permanency.

19 (2) The department of children, youth, and families, the office
20 of the superintendent of public instruction, the department of
21 commerce office of homeless youth prevention and protection programs,
22 and the student achievement council must convene a work group with
23 aligned nongovernmental agencies, including a statewide nonprofit
24 coalition that is representative of communities of color and low-
25 income communities focused on educational equity, to create a plan
26 for children and youth in foster care and children and youth
27 experiencing homelessness to facilitate educational equity with their
28 general student population peers and to close the disparities between
29 racial and ethnic groups by 2027. The work group must:

1 (a) Review the educational outcomes of children and youth in
2 foster care and children and youth experiencing homelessness,
3 including:

4 (i) Kindergarten readiness, early grade reading, school
5 stability, high school completion, postsecondary enrollment, and
6 postsecondary completion; and

7 (ii) Disaggregated data by race and ethnicity;

8 (b) Consider the outcomes, needs, and services for children and
9 youth in foster care and children and youth experiencing
10 homelessness, and the specific needs of children and youth of color
11 and those with special education needs;

12 (c) Map current education support services, including
13 eligibility, service levels, service providers, outcomes, service
14 coordination, data sharing, and overall successes and challenges;

15 (d) Engage stakeholders in participating in the analysis and
16 development of recommendations, including foster youth and children
17 and youth experiencing homelessness, foster parents and relative
18 caregivers, birth parents, caseworkers, school districts and
19 educators, early learning providers, postsecondary education
20 advocates, and federally recognized tribes;

21 (e) Make recommendations for an optimal continuum of education
22 support services to foster and homeless children and youth from
23 preschool to postsecondary education that would provide for shared
24 and sustainable accountability to reach the goal of educational
25 parity, including recommendations to:

26 (i) Align indicators and outcomes across organizations and
27 programs;

28 (ii) Improve racial and ethnic equity in educational outcomes;

29 (iii) Ensure access to consistent and accurate annual educational
30 outcomes data;

31 (iv) Address system barriers such as data sharing;

32 (v) Detail options for governance and oversight to ensure
33 educational services are continually available to foster and homeless
34 children and youth regardless of status;

35 (vi) Detail a support structure that will ensure that educational
36 records, educational needs, individualized education programs,
37 credits, and other records will follow children and youth when they
38 transition from district to district or another educational program
39 or facility;

1 (vii) Explore the option of creating a specific statewide school
2 district that supports the needs of and tracks the educational
3 progress of children and youth in foster care and children and youth
4 experiencing homelessness; and

5 (viii) Identify where opportunities exist to align policy,
6 practices, and supports for students experiencing homelessness and
7 foster students; and

8 (f) Outline which recommendations can be implemented using
9 existing resources and regulations and which require policy,
10 administrative, and resource adjustments.

11 (3) The work group should seek to develop an optimal continuum of
12 services using research-based program strategies and to provide for
13 prevention, early intervention, and seamless transitions.

14 (4) Nothing in this section permits disclosure of confidential
15 information protected from disclosure under federal or state law,
16 including but not limited to information protected under chapter
17 13.50 RCW. Confidential information received by the work group
18 retains its confidentiality and may not be further disseminated
19 except as allowed under federal and state law.

20 (5) By December 17, 2018, the work group must provide a report to
21 the legislature on its analysis as described under this section, the
22 recommended plan, and any legislative and administrative changes
23 needed to facilitate educational equity for children and youth in
24 foster care and children and youth experiencing homelessness with
25 their general student population peers by 2027.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act takes effect July 1, 2018.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act expires December 31, 2018."

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28 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "education;" strike the
29 remainder of the title and insert "creating new sections; providing
30 an effective date; and providing an expiration date."

EFFECT: Provides that nothing in section 2 permits disclosure of
confidential information protected under federal or state law and
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confidential information received by the work group retains its confidentiality and may not be further disseminated except as allowed under federal and state law.

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