
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6223

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education (originally sponsored by Senators Carlyle, O'Ban, Walsh, Frockt, Darneille, Zeiger, Palumbo, Hunt, Kuderer, Wellman, and Lias)

READ FIRST TIME 02/01/18.

1 AN ACT Relating to equitable educational outcomes for vulnerable
2 children and youth from preschool to postsecondary education;
3 creating new sections; providing an effective date; and providing an
4 expiration date.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

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

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) For the purposes of this section,
17 "children and youth in foster care" means children and youth under
18 the placement and care authority of the department of children,
19 youth, and families, a federally recognized tribe, or another child-

1 placing agency; and children and youth who have experienced foster
2 care and have achieved permanency.

3 (2) The department of children, youth, and families, the office
4 of the superintendent of public instruction, the department of
5 commerce office of homeless youth prevention and protection programs,
6 and the student achievement council must convene a work group with
7 aligned nongovernmental agencies, including a statewide nonprofit
8 coalition that is representative of communities of color and low-
9 income communities focused on educational equity, to create a plan
10 for children and youth in foster care and children and youth
11 experiencing homelessness to facilitate educational equity with their
12 general student population peers and to close the disparities between
13 racial and ethnic groups by 2027. The work group must:

14 (a) Review the educational outcomes of children and youth in
15 foster care and children and youth experiencing homelessness,
16 including:

17 (i) Kindergarten readiness, early grade reading, school
18 stability, high school completion, postsecondary enrollment, and
19 postsecondary completion; and

20 (ii) Disaggregated data by race and ethnicity;

21 (b) Consider the outcomes, needs, and services for children and
22 youth in foster care and children and youth experiencing
23 homelessness, and the specific needs of children and youth of color
24 and those with special education needs;

25 (c) Map current education support services, including
26 eligibility, service levels, service providers, outcomes, service
27 coordination, data sharing, and overall successes and challenges;

28 (d) Engage stakeholders in participating in the analysis and
29 development of recommendations, including foster youth and children
30 and youth experiencing homelessness, foster parents and relative
31 caregivers, birth parents, caseworkers, school districts and
32 educators, early learning providers, postsecondary education
33 advocates, and federally recognized tribes;

34 (e) Make recommendations for an optimal continuum of education
35 support services to foster and homeless children and youth from
36 preschool to postsecondary education that would provide for shared
37 and sustainable accountability to reach the goal of educational
38 parity, including recommendations to:

39 (i) Align indicators and outcomes across organizations and
40 programs;

1 (ii) Improve racial and ethnic equity in educational outcomes;
2 (iii) Ensure access to consistent and accurate annual educational
3 outcomes data;
4 (iv) Address system barriers such as data sharing;
5 (v) Detail options for governance and oversight to ensure
6 educational services are continually available to foster and homeless
7 children and youth regardless of status;
8 (vi) Detail a support structure that will ensure that educational
9 records, educational needs, individualized education programs,
10 credits, and other records will follow children and youth when they
11 transition from district to district or another educational program
12 or facility;
13 (vii) Explore the option of creating a specific statewide school
14 district that supports the needs of and tracks the educational
15 progress of children and youth in foster care and children and youth
16 experiencing homelessness; and
17 (viii) Identify where opportunities exist to align policy,
18 practices, and supports for students experiencing homelessness and
19 foster students; and
20 (f) Outline which recommendations can be implemented using
21 existing resources and regulations and which require policy,
22 administrative, and resource adjustments.
23 (3) The work group should seek to develop an optimal continuum of
24 services using research-based program strategies and to provide for
25 prevention, early intervention, and seamless transitions.
26 (4) By December 17, 2018, the work group must provide a report to
27 the legislature on its analysis as described under this section, the
28 recommended plan, and any legislative and administrative changes
29 needed to facilitate educational equity for children and youth in
30 foster care and children and youth experiencing homelessness with
31 their general student population peers by 2027.

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

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

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