
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6074

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2014 Regular Session

By Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education (originally sponsored by Senators Frockt, O'Ban, Mullet, Litzow, Rolfes, Fain, Billig, Rivers, Hasegawa, Kohl-Welles, Conway, Keiser, McAuliffe, Darneille, Fraser, Ranker, Kline, and Brown)

READ FIRST TIME 02/04/14.

1 AN ACT Relating to improving educational outcomes for homeless
2 students; amending RCW 28A.300.540 and 28A.175.010; adding a new
3 section to chapter 28A.320 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that since the 2005-06
6 school year, the number of homeless students identified in the K-12
7 public school system has been increasing. The legislature further
8 finds that there are additional homeless students who are not
9 identified by schools. The legislature intends to improve educational
10 outcomes for homeless children by strengthening the ability of school
11 districts to identify homeless students, establishing data reporting
12 requirements, and distributing best practices and information regarding
13 services and support for homeless students.

14 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.300.540 and 2009 c 515 s 12 are each amended to
15 read as follows:

16 (1) By December 31, 2010, the office of the superintendent of
17 public instruction shall establish a uniform process designed to track
18 the additional expenditures for transporting homeless students,

1 including expenditures required under the McKinney Vento act,
2 reauthorized as Title X, Part C, of the no child left behind act, P.L.
3 107-110, in January 2002. Once established, the superintendent shall
4 adopt the necessary administrative rules to direct each school district
5 to adopt and use the uniform process and track these expenditures. The
6 superintendent shall ~~((provide information annually to the agency
7 council on coordinated transportation, created in chapter 47.06B RCW,
8 on))~~ post on the superintendent's web site total expenditures related
9 to the transportation of homeless students.

10 (2)(a) By January 10, 2015, and every odd-numbered year thereafter,
11 the office of the superintendent of public instruction shall report to
12 the governor and the legislature the following data for homeless
13 students:

14 (i) The number of identified homeless students enrolled in public
15 schools;

16 (ii) The number of students participating in the learning
17 assistance program under chapter 28A.165 RCW, the highly capable
18 program under chapter 28A.185 RCW, and the running start program under
19 chapter 28A.600 RCW; and

20 (iii) The academic performance and educational outcomes of homeless
21 students, including but not limited to the following performance and
22 educational outcomes:

23 (A) Student scores on the statewide administered academic
24 assessments;

25 (B) English language proficiency;

26 (C) Dropout rates;

27 (D) Four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate;

28 (E) Five-year adjusted cohort graduation rate;

29 (F) Absenteeism rates;

30 (G) Truancy rates, if available; and

31 (H) Suspension and expulsion data.

32 (b) The data reported under this subsection (2) must include state
33 and district-level information and must be disaggregated by at least
34 the following subgroups of students: White, Black, Hispanic, American
35 Indian/Alaskan Native, Asian, Pacific Islander/Hawaiian Native, low
36 income, transitional bilingual, migrant, special education, and gender.

37 (3) By July 1, 2014, the office of the superintendent of public
38 instruction in collaboration with experts from community organizations

1 on homelessness and homeless education policy, shall develop or acquire
2 a short video that provides information on how to identify signs that
3 indicate a student may be homeless, how to provide services and support
4 to homeless students, and why this identification and support is
5 critical to student success. The video must be posted on the
6 superintendent of public instruction's web site.

7 (4) By July 1, 2014, the office of the superintendent of public
8 instruction shall adopt and distribute to each school district, best
9 practices for choosing and training school district-designated homeless
10 student liaisons.

11 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 28A.320
12 RCW to read as follows:

13 (1) On an annual basis, each school district must strongly
14 encourage:

15 (a) All school staff to annually review the video posted on the
16 office of the superintendent of public instruction's web site on how to
17 identify signs that indicate a student may be homeless, how to provide
18 services and support to homeless students, and why this identification
19 and support is critical to student success to ensure that homeless
20 students are appropriately identified and supported; and

21 (b) Every district-designated homeless student liaison to attend
22 trainings provided by the state to ensure that homeless children and
23 youth are identified and served.

24 (2) Each school district shall include in existing materials that
25 are shared with students at the beginning of the school year or at
26 enrollment, information about services and support for homeless
27 students. School districts may use the brochure posted on the web site
28 of the office of the superintendent of public instruction as a
29 resource. Schools are also strongly encouraged to use a variety of
30 communications each year to notify students and families about services
31 and support available to them if they experience homelessness,
32 including but not limited to:

- 33 (a) Distributing and collecting an annual housing intake survey;
34 (b) Providing parent brochures directly to students and families;
35 (c) Announcing the information at school-wide assemblies; or
36 (d) Posting information on the district's web site or linking to
37 the office of the superintendent of public instruction's web site.

1 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28A.175.010 and 2010 c 243 s 5 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 Each school district shall account for the educational progress of
4 each of its students. To achieve this, school districts shall be
5 required to report annually to the superintendent of public
6 instruction:

7 (1) For students enrolled in each of a school district's high
8 school programs:

9 (a) The number of students who graduate in fewer than four years;

10 (b) The number of students who graduate in four years;

11 (c) The number of students who remain in school for more than four
12 years but who eventually graduate and the number of students who remain
13 in school for more than four years but do not graduate;

14 (d) The number of students who transfer to other schools;

15 (e) The number of students in the ninth through twelfth grade who
16 drop out of school over a four-year period; and

17 (f) The number of students whose status is unknown.

18 (2) Dropout rates of students in each of the grades seven through
19 twelve.

20 (3) Dropout rates for student populations in each of the grades
21 seven through twelve by:

22 (a) Ethnicity;

23 (b) Gender;

24 (c) Socioeconomic status; (~~and~~)

25 (d) Disability status; and

26 (e) Identified homeless status.

27 (4) The causes or reasons, or both, attributed to students for
28 having dropped out of school in grades seven through twelve.

29 (5) The superintendent of public instruction shall adopt rules
30 under chapter 34.05 RCW to assure uniformity in the information
31 districts are required to report under subsections (1) through (4) of
32 this section. In developing rules, the superintendent of public
33 instruction shall consult with school districts, including
34 administrative and counseling personnel, with regard to the methods
35 through which information is to be collected and reported.

36 (6) In reporting on the causes or reasons, or both, attributed to
37 students for having dropped out of school, school building officials
38 shall, to the extent reasonably practical, obtain such information

1 directly from students. In lieu of obtaining such information directly
2 from students, building principals and counselors shall identify the
3 causes or reasons, or both, based on their professional judgment.

4 (7) The superintendent of public instruction shall report annually
5 to the legislature the information collected under subsections (1)
6 through (4) of this section.

7 (8) The Washington state institute for public policy shall
8 calculate an annual estimate of the savings resulting from any change
9 compared to the prior school year in the extended graduation rate. The
10 superintendent shall include the estimate from the institute in an
11 appendix of the report required under subsection (7) of this section,
12 beginning with the 2010 report.

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