
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5379

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education (originally sponsored by Senators Wilson, C., Nguyen, Saldaña, Darneille, Das, Hasegawa, Hunt, Keiser, and Zeiger)

READ FIRST TIME 02/14/19.

1 AN ACT Relating to providing services and supports to parenting
2 minors to improve educational attainment; adding a new section to
3 chapter 74.12 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 43.216 RCW; adding
4 a new section to chapter 28A.300 RCW; adding a new section to chapter
5 28A.160 RCW; creating a new section; providing an effective date; and
6 providing an expiration date.

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

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the graduation,
9 reality, and dual-role skills program was reported by the Washington
10 state institute for public policy to deliver a benefit-cost ratio of
11 three dollars for every program dollar spent and that graduation,
12 reality, and dual-role skills program students have a ten percent
13 greater high school graduation rate when compared to pregnant and
14 parenting students not in a graduation, reality, and dual-role skills
15 program. The legislature further finds that the United States census
16 bureau reported for 2017 that nearly twenty-five percent of people
17 ages twenty-five and older without a high school diploma lived in
18 poverty and that intergenerational poverty can affect the lives of
19 future generations unless the cycle of poverty is interrupted with
20 effective services. Therefore, the legislature intends to improve
21 family unity, student outcomes, and the development of our future

1 workforce by removing programmatic barriers and promoting
2 coordination among programs that deliver services to parenting
3 minors.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 74.12
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1) An applicant is eligible to receive the maximum temporary
7 assistance for needy families grant award regardless of the
8 applicant's income if the applicant:

9 (a) Is under eighteen years of age;

10 (b) Has a dependent child or children in the applicant's care;

11 (c) Has available resources with values that do not exceed the
12 exemption limits set forth in the definition of "resource" under RCW
13 74.04.005;

14 (d) Is actively progressing towards meeting the education
15 requirements established under RCW 74.08A.380; and

16 (e) Is otherwise qualified to receive assistance under this
17 title.

18 (2) If a minor parent applicant lives with a parent or guardian
19 who is not receiving assistance under this title, the minor parent
20 applicant may be considered eligible if the household income is lower
21 than the area median income as calculated by the office of financial
22 management.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 43.216
24 RCW to read as follows:

25 A parent who is under eighteen years of age and is attending high
26 school or is working toward completing a general educational
27 development certificate is eligible to receive working connections
28 child care. When determining consumer eligibility and copayment under
29 this section, the department:

30 (1) Must treat the minor parent as his or her own household when
31 determining household income;

32 (2) Must, within existing resources, authorize full-day
33 subsidized child care during the school year in cases where:

34 (a) The consumer is participating in one hundred ten hours of
35 approved activities per month;

36 (b) The household income of the consumer does not exceed eighty-
37 five percent of the state median income at the time of application;
38 and

1 (c) The consumer meets all other program eligibility
2 requirements;

3 (3) Must designate children of minor parents as a vulnerable
4 population in need of protective services pursuant to 45 C.F.R. Sec.
5 98.20 as it existed on January 1, 2019;

6 (4) May not consider the availability of the other biological
7 parent when authorizing care; and

8 (5) May not require a copayment that is greater than the minimum
9 copayment established by the department for the working connections
10 child care program in rule.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300
12 RCW to read as follows:

13 (1) Subject to the availability of funds appropriated for this
14 specific purpose, the office of the superintendent of public
15 instruction shall establish a competitive application process to
16 provide grants to school districts for the establishment of a
17 graduation, reality, and dual-role skills program.

18 (2) Grants awarded under this section must be used for: Start-up
19 costs associated with opening a child care center located on school
20 premises; graduation, reality, and dual-role skills program staff
21 salaries; support group facilitation; mentoring; or other expenses
22 associated with the operation of a graduation, reality, and dual-role
23 skills program.

24 (3) No later than December 1, 2030, the Washington state
25 institute for public policy must evaluate the effectiveness of the
26 grants awarded under this section. The evaluation must include a
27 cost-benefit analysis and an assessment of student outcomes for
28 graduation, reality, and dual-role skills program participants at
29 five years after participation. Outcomes evaluated must include data
30 related to participants' educational attainment, employment, and
31 participation in public assistance programs. The institute shall
32 report these outcomes to the governor and appropriate committees of
33 the legislature no later than December 1, 2030.

34 (4) This section expires December 30, 2030.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.160
36 RCW to read as follows:

37 (1) By July 1, 2020, at the request of an eligible student, a
38 school district:

1 (a) May allow the student to transport his or her infant on a
2 school bus or other student transportation vehicle provided by the
3 district. The infant must be transported in a rear-facing child
4 restraint system as defined in the federal motor vehicle safety
5 standards in 49 C.F.R. Sec. 571.213;

6 (b) Must, in cases where a district denies a student's request to
7 transport his or her infant by school bus, authorize other
8 arrangements for individual transportation in accordance with RCW
9 28A.160.030.

10 (2) For the purposes of this section, "eligible student" has the
11 same meaning as in RCW 28A.160.160.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 2 and 3 of this act take effect
13 May 1, 2020.

--- END ---