
HOUSE BILL 1679

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By Representatives Rule, Eslick, Reeves, Gregerson, and Pollet

Read first time 01/30/23. Referred to Committee on Human Services, Youth, & Early Learning.

1 AN ACT Relating to modifying and extending requirements of a work
2 group convened to address the needs of students in foster care,
3 experiencing homelessness, or both, by adding reporting and other
4 requirements related to students in or exiting institutional
5 education facilities; amending RCW 28A.300.544; and providing an
6 expiration date.

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

8 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.300.544 and 2020 c 233 s 2 are each amended to
9 read as follows:

10 (1) The office of the superintendent of public instruction, in
11 collaboration with the department of children, youth, and families,
12 the office of homeless youth prevention and protection programs of
13 the department of commerce, and the student achievement council,
14 shall convene a work group to address the needs of students in foster
15 care, experiencing homelessness, or ~~((both))~~ in or exiting juvenile
16 rehabilitation facilities. Nothing in this section prevents the
17 office of the superintendent of public instruction from using an
18 existing work group created under the authority of section
19 223(1)(bb), chapter 299, Laws of 2018, with modifications to the
20 membership and duties, to meet the requirements of this section. The
21 work group, which shall seek to promote continuity with efforts

1 resulting from section 223(1)(bb), chapter 299, Laws of 2018, must
2 include representatives of nongovernmental agencies ~~((and))~~,
3 representation from the educational opportunity gap oversight and
4 accountability committee, representation from the education data
5 center, and meaningful consultation with youth and young adults who
6 have lived experience in foster care, homelessness and juvenile
7 rehabilitation. The work group must also include four legislative
8 members who possess experience in issues of education, ~~((the foster~~
9 ~~care system, and))~~ child welfare, homeless youth, and juvenile
10 rehabilitation, appointed as follows:

11 (a) The president of the senate shall appoint one member from
12 each of the two largest caucuses of the senate.

13 (b) The speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint one
14 member from each of the two largest caucuses of the house of
15 representatives.

16 (2) The work group shall develop recommendations to promote the
17 following for students who are in foster care, experiencing
18 homelessness, or ~~((both))~~ in or exiting juvenile rehabilitation
19 facilities:

20 (a) The achievement of parity in education outcomes with the
21 general student population; and

22 (b) The elimination of racial and ethnic disparities for
23 education outcomes in comparison to the general student population.

24 (3) In developing the recommendations required by subsection (2)
25 of this section, the work group shall:

26 (a) Review the education outcomes of students in foster care,
27 experiencing homelessness, or ~~((both))~~ in or exiting juvenile
28 rehabilitation facilities, by examining data, disaggregated by race
29 and ethnicity, on:

30 (i) Kindergarten readiness, early grade reading and math,
31 ~~((eighth and))~~ ninth grade students on track to graduate, high school
32 completion, postsecondary enrollment, ~~((and))~~ postsecondary
33 completion, and other outcomes of students after high school; and

34 (ii) School attendance, school mobility, special education
35 ~~((status))~~ and other student support programs, and school discipline;

36 (b) Evaluate the outcomes, needs, and service array for students
37 in foster care, experiencing homelessness, or ~~((both))~~ in or exiting
38 juvenile rehabilitation facilities, and the specific needs of
39 students of color and students with special education needs;

1 (c) Engage stakeholders, including students in foster care,
2 experiencing homelessness, or ~~((both))~~ in or exiting juvenile
3 rehabilitation facilities, foster parents and relative caregivers,
4 birth parents, caseworkers, school districts and educators, early
5 learning providers, postsecondary institutions, and federally
6 recognized tribes, to provide input on the development of
7 recommendations; and

8 (d)(i) Submit ~~((annual reports))~~ a report to the governor, the
9 appropriate committees of the legislature, and the educational
10 opportunity gap oversight and accountability committee by October 31,
11 ~~((2021, 2022, and))~~ 2023, and annually thereafter until 2027, that
12 ~~((identify))~~ identifies:

13 (A) Progress the state has made toward achieving education parity
14 for students in foster care, experiencing homelessness, or ~~((both))~~
15 in or exiting juvenile rehabilitation facilities; and

16 (B) Recommendations that can be implemented using existing
17 resources, rules, and regulations, and those that would require
18 policy, administrative, and resource allocation changes prior to
19 implementation.

20 (ii) Reports required by (d) of this subsection may include
21 findings and recommendations regarding the feasibility of developing
22 a case study to examine or implement recommendations of the work
23 group.

24 (4) The work group, in accordance with RCW 43.01.036, must submit
25 a final report to the governor, the appropriate committees of the
26 legislature, and the educational opportunity gap oversight and
27 accountability committee by July 1, ~~((2024))~~ 2028. The final report
28 must include the recommendations required by subsection (2) of this
29 section and may include a plan for achieving the recommendations
30 specified in subsection (2) of this section.

31 (5) To assist the work group in the completion of its duties, the
32 following apply:

33 (a) The office of the superintendent of public instruction,
34 department of children, youth, and families, the student achievement
35 council, and the office of homeless youth prevention and protection
36 programs of the department of commerce shall provide updated
37 education data and other necessary data to the education data center
38 established under RCW 43.41.400; and

39 (b) The education data center shall provide ~~((annual reports))~~ a
40 report to the work group regarding education outcomes specified in

1 subsection (3)(a)(i) and (ii) of this section by (~~March 31, 2021,~~
2 ~~2022, and~~) August 31, 2023, and annually thereafter until 2027. If
3 state funds are not available to produce the reports, the work group
4 may pursue supplemental private funds to fulfill the requirements of
5 this subsection (5)(b).

6 (6) Nothing in this section permits disclosure of confidential
7 information protected from disclosure under federal or state law,
8 including but not limited to information protected under chapter
9 13.50 RCW. Confidential information received by the work group
10 retains its confidentiality and may not be further disseminated
11 except as permitted by federal and state law.

12 (7) (~~For the purposes of this section, "students in foster care,~~
13 ~~experiencing homelessness, or both" includes students who are in~~
14 ~~foster care or experiencing homelessness, and students who have been~~
15 ~~homeless or in foster care, or both~~) The definitions in this
16 subsection apply throughout this section unless the context clearly
17 requires otherwise.

18 (a) "Students in foster care" means students who are the subject
19 of a dependency proceeding as defined in RCW 26A.150.510.

20 (b) "Students experiencing homelessness" means students without a
21 fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence in accordance with
22 the definition of homeless children and youths in the federal
23 McKinney-Vento homeless assistance act, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 11431 through
24 11435.

25 (c) "Students in or exiting juvenile rehabilitation facilities"
26 means youth and postresident youth as those terms are defined in RCW
27 26A.190.005.

28 (8) This section expires December 31, (~~2024~~) 2028.

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