
HOUSE BILL 1866

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

By Representatives Ortiz-Self, Eslick, Berry, Cortes, Morgan, Ramel, Duerr, Ramos, Reed, Simmons, Ormsby, Fey, Timmons, Callan, Street, Donaghy, Paul, Gregerson, Doglio, Fosse, Stonier, Mena, Reeves, Lekanoff, Riccelli, Santos, Hackney, Pollet, Davis, and Shavers

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1 AN ACT Relating to the academic and support needs of children of
2 seasonal farmworkers; creating a new section; and providing an
3 expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1)(a) The legislature finds that, unlike
6 the children of migratory agricultural workers and fishers, who may
7 qualify to receive supplemental academic and other support services
8 funded by federal grant dollars, the children of nonmigratory
9 seasonal farmworkers do not have access to additional resources or
10 supports even though they have similar experiences as migrant
11 children. Both groups of children may experience low socioeconomic
12 status, limited English proficiency, limited family engagement with
13 schools, gaps in school attendance, and limited access to health
14 supports, nutritious meals, and technology supports at home and in
15 the community, especially in rural and remote locations.

16 (b) The legislature intends to commission a study of the needs of
17 children of seasonal farmworkers to determine whether the state
18 should provide these children with academic and other support
19 services that are modeled after services provided to migrant
20 children.

1 (2) By June 1, 2025, and in compliance with RCW 43.01.036, the
2 office of the superintendent of public instruction shall report to
3 the appropriate committees of the legislature with the results of the
4 study described in subsection (4) of this section. The report must
5 also include a recommended definition for "child of a seasonal
6 farmworker" and recommendations for meeting the academic and other
7 needs of children of seasonal farmworkers.

8 (3) The department of agriculture and the department of labor and
9 industries must collaborate and coordinate with the office of the
10 superintendent of public instruction on the study and report required
11 by this section.

12 (4) At a minimum, the study must examine factors that impact
13 children of seasonal farmworkers in comparison to migrant students in
14 the following areas: School and program access, school readiness,
15 attendance, grade promotion and retention, performance on state
16 assessments, academic growth, graduation rates, discipline rates, and
17 teacher qualifications and years of experience. The study must also
18 investigate student access to postsecondary education and career
19 opportunities in formerly rural or agricultural communities.

20 (5) This section expires August 1, 2026.

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