
HOUSE BILL 1289

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Representatives McClintock, Santos, Schmidt, and Timmons

Read first time 01/14/25. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to assessing and improving the public school
2 system through survey information provided voluntarily by parents and
3 guardians; amending RCW 28A.225.220; and adding a new section to
4 chapter 28A.310 RCW.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.310
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 (1)(a) In order to assist school districts and public schools in
9 assessing and improving their education programs and services, the
10 Washington school information processing cooperative shall establish,
11 maintain, and promote to public schools a confidential online survey
12 for voluntary use by parents or guardians of children enrolled in
13 public schools that are: Transferring to a public or private school;
14 or withdrawing to receive home-based instruction in accordance with
15 chapter 28A.200 RCW. No parent or guardian may be required to
16 complete the survey.

17 (b) The survey must be operational by September 1, 2025, and use
18 the statewide student identifier for each student for which there is
19 a survey response.

20 (2) The purpose of the survey is to:

1 (a) Collect data for public school officials, policymakers, and
2 the public through voluntary responses from parents and guardians
3 about the purposes and reasons that they transfer or withdraw
4 students from public schools; and

5 (b) Identify, through the collected data, opportunities for
6 improving the public school system to better meet the needs of
7 students and their parents or guardians.

8 (3) Public schools are encouraged to notify parents or guardians
9 of the survey and provide a link to the applicable website upon
10 receiving a request from a parent or guardian to transfer or withdraw
11 their student from a public school.

12 (4) (a) Beginning December 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the
13 Washington school information processing cooperative shall provide a
14 summary of the data received through the survey during the school
15 year preceding the issuance of the report to:

16 (i) The public schools and school districts from which the survey
17 responses from parents or guardians originated; and

18 (ii) The education and fiscal committees of the legislature, in
19 compliance with RCW 43.01.036.

20 (b) The Washington school information processing cooperative
21 shall annually post and maintain on its website an aggregate
22 statewide summary of the data summaries required by (a) of this
23 subsection.

24 (5) The Washington school information processing cooperative
25 shall ensure that the implementation of this section occurs in
26 conformity with requirements governing the privacy of student
27 education records.

28 (6) For the purposes of this section:

29 (a) "Public schools" has the same meaning as in RCW 28A.150.010;
30 and

31 (b) "Statewide student identifier" has the same meaning as in RCW
32 28B.10.041.

33 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.225.220 and 2013 2nd sp.s. c 18 s 510 are each
34 amended to read as follows:

35 (1) Any board of directors may make agreements with adults
36 choosing to attend school, and may charge the adults reasonable
37 tuition.

38 (2) A district is strongly encouraged to honor the request of a
39 parent or guardian for his or her child to attend a school in another

1 district or the request of a parent or guardian for his or her child
2 to transfer as a student receiving home-based instruction.

3 (3) A district shall release a student to a nonresident district
4 that agrees to accept the student if:

5 (a) A financial, educational, safety, or health condition
6 affecting the student would likely be reasonably improved as a result
7 of the transfer; or

8 (b) Attendance at the school in the nonresident district is more
9 accessible to the parent's place of work or to the location of child
10 care; or

11 (c) There is a special hardship or detrimental condition; or

12 (d) The purpose of the transfer is for the student to enroll in
13 an online course or online school program offered by an online
14 provider approved under RCW 28A.250.020.

15 (4) A district may deny the request of a resident student to
16 transfer to a nonresident district if the release of the student
17 would adversely affect the district's existing desegregation plan.

18 (5) For the purpose of helping a district assess the quality of
19 its education program, a resident school district may, in addition to
20 providing the parent or guardian with a link to the survey required
21 by section 1 of this act, request an optional exit interview or
22 questionnaire with the parents or guardians of a child transferring
23 to another district. No parent or guardian may be forced to attend
24 such an interview or complete the questionnaire.

25 (6) Beginning with the 1993-94 school year, school districts may
26 not charge transfer fees or tuition for nonresident students enrolled
27 under subsection (3) of this section and RCW 28A.225.225.
28 Reimbursement of a high school district for cost of educating high
29 school pupils of a nonhigh school district shall not be deemed a
30 transfer fee as affecting the apportionment of current state school
31 funds.

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