
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2534

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2026 Regular Session

By House Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Shavers, McEntire, Barnard, Leavitt, and Nance)

READ FIRST TIME 02/04/26.

1 AN ACT Relating to promoting educational stability for children
2 of military families; and amending RCW 28A.225.216.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.225.216 and 2019 c 72 s 1 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1)(a) A child of a military family complies with the residency
7 requirements for enrollment in a school district if ((a parent of the
8 child is transferred to, or is)), as a result of a parent's active
9 duty status, call to active duty, or notification of an impending
10 call or order to active duty, the child relocates to Washington and
11 the child's military parent is:

12 (i) Transferred to, or has received official notice of a pending
13 transfer to, a military installation located within the state ((while
14 on active duty pursuant to official military orders)) of Washington;

15 (ii) Transferred to, or has received official notice of a pending
16 transfer to, a military installation located in a state bordering
17 Washington; or

18 (iii) Relocating due to a military exigency, for example overseas
19 deployment, sea duty, or other mobilization.

1 (b) A parent of the child must provide the school district with a
2 copy of official military orders or other documentation issued by the
3 appropriate military authority confirming the directed move.

4 (c) A parent of the child must provide to the school district
5 proof of the child's residence in the school district within
6 (~~fourteen~~) 90 calendar days of (~~the arrival date provided on~~
7 ~~official military documentation~~) enrollment. The parent may use the
8 address of any of the following as proof of residence in the school
9 district:

10 (i) A temporary (~~on-base billeting facility~~) lodging within the
11 school district where the military family is expecting to obtain
12 permanent housing;

13 (ii) A purchased or leased residence, or a signed purchase and
14 sale agreement or lease agreement for a residence; or

15 (iii) Any federal government housing or off-base military
16 housing, including off-base military housing that may be provided
17 through a public-private venture.

18 (2) (a) A school district shall accept, on a conditional basis, an
19 application for enrollment and course registration, including
20 enrollment in a specific school or program within the school
21 district, (~~by electronic means for children of military families who~~
22 ~~meet the requirements of subsection (1)(a) of this section~~) from a
23 child of a military family who meets the requirements of subsection
24 (1)(a) of this section, prior to the child arriving in Washington or
25 a bordering state. A school district shall accept applications
26 submitted by any reasonable means, including electronic transmission
27 or mail. School districts must provide military families with the
28 maximum flexibility practicable in the method of application
29 submission, consistent with verification, privacy, and administrative
30 requirements.

31 **(b)** Upon (~~satisfaction of~~) verification that the requirements
32 of subsection (1)(b) and (c) of this section have been satisfied, the
33 school district shall finalize the enrollment of (~~children of~~
34 ~~military families~~) the child of a military family.

35 (3) In the case of a child of a military family who had an
36 individualized education program or plan developed under section 504
37 of the federal rehabilitation act of 1973 in effect in another state,
38 the school district shall:

39 (a) Take the necessary steps to accept the transfer of the
40 child's educational records, including any prior evaluations;

1 (b) Upon enrollment, provide the child with appropriate services
2 and accommodations without unreasonable delay, including services
3 comparable to those described in the child's previously held
4 individualized education program or section 504 plan; and

5 (c) If the school district determines that an evaluation is
6 necessary, take reasonable steps to conduct the evaluation as
7 expeditiously as practicable, consistent with applicable federal and
8 state law.

9 (4) A nonresident school district is not required to provide a
10 child of a military family with transportation to and from the
11 resident school district unless otherwise required by state or
12 federal law.

13 (5) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this
14 section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

15 (a) "Active duty" has the same meaning as in RCW 28A.705.010.

16 (b) "Child of a military family" and "~~(children of military~~
17 ~~families)~~ child" have the same meaning as "children of military
18 families" in RCW 28A.705.010.

19 (c) "Military installation" has the same meaning as in RCW
20 28A.705.010.

21 (d) "Parent" means a parent, guardian, or other person or entity
22 having legal custody of a child of a military family.

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