
HOUSE BILL 2534

State of Washington **69th Legislature** **2026 Regular Session**

By Representatives Shavers, McEntire, Barnard, Leavitt, and Nance

Read first time 01/19/26. Referred to Committee on Education.

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 pending transfer to, a military
9 installation within the state (~~((while on active duty))~~) or bordering
10 state, or the military family is transferring due to a military
11 exigency requiring relocation, pursuant to official military orders.

12 (b) A parent of the child must provide proof of official military
13 orders or documentation by their military commander of the directed
14 move.

15 (c) A parent of the child must provide to the school district
16 proof of residence in the school district within (~~((fourteen))~~) 90
17 calendar days of (~~((the arrival date provided on official military~~
18 ~~documentation))~~) enrollment. The parent may use the address of any of
19 the following as proof of residence in the school district:

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

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

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

9 (2) A school district shall accept, on a conditional basis, an
10 application for enrollment and course registration, including
11 enrollment in a specific school or program within the school
12 district, prior to the military family arriving in the state, by
13 electronic or other means for children of military families who meet
14 the requirements of subsection (1)(a) of this section. Upon
15 satisfaction of the requirements of subsection (1)(b) and (c) of this
16 section, the school district shall finalize the enrollment of
17 children of military families.

18 (3) If the enrolling child of a military family is transferring
19 with an individualized education program or plan developed under
20 section 504 of the rehabilitation act of 1973, the school district
21 shall take the necessary steps to accept the transfer of records and
22 any prior evaluations. Upon enrollment, the school district shall
23 ensure that the child of a military family receives the appropriate
24 services and accommodations, consistent with the child of a military
25 family's existing individualized education program or section 504
26 plan without unreasonable delay. If a reevaluation is deemed
27 necessary, the reevaluation must occur within 30 calendar days after
28 the date of arrival, subject to the informed parental consent of the
29 parent.

30 (4) Nonresident school districts are not required to provide
31 transportation to and from the school unless otherwise required by
32 state or federal law.

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

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

36 (b) "Child of a military family" and "children of military
37 families" have the same meaning as "children of military families" in
38 RCW 28A.705.010.

39 (c) "Military installation" has the same meaning as in RCW
40 28A.705.010.

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

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