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**HOUSE BILL 2557**

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**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2026 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Chase, Schmidt, Eslick, and Santos

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

1 AN ACT Relating to parental access to special education  
2 evaluation reports; adding a new section to chapter 28A.155 RCW; and  
3 creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that the federal  
6 individuals with disabilities education act, 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1400 et  
7 seq., requires an opportunity for the parents of a child with a  
8 disability to examine all records relating to the child and to  
9 participate in meetings regarding the identification, evaluation,  
10 eligibility, educational placement, and provision of a free  
11 appropriate public education to the child.

12 (2) The legislature further finds that parents' ability to  
13 participate meaningfully in eligibility determination meetings is  
14 hindered when written evaluation reports and conclusions are provided  
15 for the first time during or after the meeting.

16 (3) The legislature plans to require that parents receive  
17 finalized evaluation reports with sufficient time to review, consult,  
18 and prepare questions and input prior to meetings at which  
19 eligibility decisions are discussed or determined. The legislature  
20 believes this will promote consistent statewide practice, support  
21 collaboration between families and school districts, and safeguard

1 meaningful participation without altering special education  
2 evaluation completion timelines, eligibility standards, or services.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.155  
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 (1) For any initial evaluation or reevaluation conducted to  
6 determine the eligibility or continuing eligibility of a student for  
7 special education services, a school district must provide the  
8 student's parent or legal guardian with a copy of the evaluation  
9 report no later than five school days before an eligibility meeting  
10 at which the school district will review evaluation results for, or  
11 discuss or determine, the student's eligibility or continuing  
12 eligibility for special education services.

13 (2) The school district must provide the evaluation report in  
14 written or electronic format that the parent or legal guardian can  
15 access, review, and retain. Providing an evaluation report solely  
16 through screen sharing, or solely by review during a meeting, does  
17 not satisfy this section.

18 (3) A parent or legal guardian may voluntarily waive the timeline  
19 in subsection (1) of this section in writing. A waiver is valid only  
20 if it applies to the specific eligibility meeting at issue.

21 (4) If the school district cannot provide the evaluation report  
22 within the time frame required by subsection (1) of this section, the  
23 school district must reschedule the eligibility meeting to comply  
24 with this section unless the parent or legal guardian provides a  
25 written waiver under subsection (3) of this section.

26 (5) Failure to provide the evaluation report as required by this  
27 section, absent a written waiver under subsection (3) of this  
28 section, constitutes a procedural violation. In any administrative  
29 review, complaint, or due process proceeding, such failure may be  
30 considered as evidence relevant to whether the parent's or legal  
31 guardian's opportunity to participate in the decision-making process  
32 regarding the provision of a free appropriate public education to the  
33 student was significantly impeded.

34 (6) The office of the superintendent of public instruction must  
35 update model forms and technical assistance guidance to reflect the  
36 requirements of this section.

37 (7) The office of the superintendent of public instruction may  
38 adopt rules under chapter 34.05 RCW to implement this section.

1       (8) For purposes of this section, the following definitions  
2 apply:

3       (a) "Evaluation report" means the set of completed written  
4 evaluation materials for the student that the school district intends  
5 to rely on in making or supporting an eligibility determination at  
6 the eligibility meeting.

7       (b) "School day" has the same meaning as in RCW 28A.150.203.

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