
SENATE BILL 5304

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Senators Kauffman, Nobles, Frame, Hasegawa, Krishnadasan, Lias, Riccelli, Slatter, Trudeau, Valdez, and C. Wilson; by request of Student Achievement Council

Read first time 01/16/25. Referred to Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to expanding eligibility for the students
2 experiencing homelessness and foster youth program to an accredited
3 tribal college; and amending RCW 28B.77.850.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28B.77.850 and 2023 c 339 s 2 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
8 specific purpose, each public four-year institution of higher
9 education and a public tribal college located in Washington and
10 accredited by the northwest commission on colleges and universities
11 or another accrediting association recognized by the United States
12 department of education may implement a program to provide assistance
13 to students experiencing homelessness and to students who were in the
14 foster care system when they graduated high school. The program must
15 provide certain accommodations to these students that may include,
16 but are not limited to, the following:

- 17 (a) Access to laundry facilities;
18 (b) Access to storage;
19 (c) Access to locker room and shower facilities;
20 (d) Reduced-price meals or meal plans, and access to food banks;
21 (e) Access to technology;

1 (f) Access to short-term housing or housing assistance,
2 especially during seasonal breaks; and

3 (g) Case management services.

4 (2) The four-year institutions of higher education and the tribal
5 college may also establish plans to develop surplus property for
6 affordable housing to accommodate the needs of students experiencing
7 homelessness and students who were in the foster care system when
8 they graduated high school.

9 (3) The four-year institutions of higher education and the tribal
10 college participating in the program shall leverage existing
11 community resources by making available to students in the program
12 information that is available for individuals experiencing
13 homelessness, including through not-for-profit organizations, the
14 local housing authority, and the department of commerce's office of
15 homeless youth.

16 (4) The four-year institutions of higher education and the tribal
17 college participating in the program shall annually provide a joint
18 report to the appropriate committees of the legislature in accordance
19 with RCW 43.01.036 beginning December 1, 2023, that includes at least
20 the following information:

21 (a) The number of students experiencing homelessness or food
22 insecurity, and the number of students who were in the foster care
23 system when they graduated high school who attended a four-year
24 institution of higher education or a tribal college during the
25 program. The council shall coordinate with all of the four-year
26 institutions of higher education and the tribal college to collect
27 voluntary data on how many students experiencing homelessness or food
28 insecurity are attending the four-year institutions of higher
29 education and the tribal college;

30 (b) The number of students assisted by the program;

31 (c) Strategies for accommodating students experiencing
32 homelessness or food insecurity, and former foster care students; and

33 (d) Legislative recommendations for how students experiencing
34 homelessness or food insecurity, and former foster care students
35 could be better served.

36 (5) For purposes of this section, "program" means the students
37 experiencing homelessness and foster youth program.

--- END ---