
SENATE BILL 6227

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2026 Regular Session

By Senators C. Wilson, Nobles, Conway, Hasegawa, and Lovick

Read first time 01/20/26. Referred to Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to formalizing data collection protocols to
2 support parenting students; adding a new section to chapter 28B.77
3 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that Washington
6 lacks a formal, consistent system to identify or track parenting
7 students across institutions of higher education. As a result,
8 parenting students are often invisible in policy development,
9 budgeting decisions, and student support planning, limiting the
10 ability of institutions and the state to understand their needs,
11 measure outcomes, or design effective supports.

12 The legislature further finds that parenting students represent a
13 significant portion of the postsecondary population and face distinct
14 barriers to enrollment, persistence, and completion. Without reliable
15 data, institutions cannot consistently identify student parents,
16 evaluate access to existing resources, or coordinate supports related
17 to child care, basic needs, and financial aid.

18 The intent of this act is to establish consistent, statewide data
19 collection protocols to better understand the experiences and
20 outcomes of parenting students. By improving data quality and
21 coordination, the legislature seeks to support evidence-based

1 policymaking, advance educational equity, and strengthen Washington's
2 future workforce by improving postsecondary completion for student
3 parents and their families.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.77
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1) The council shall work with institutions of higher education,
7 as defined in RCW 28B.10.016, to develop formal data collection
8 protocols to identify parenting students. Data collection may occur
9 where it is the most feasible, cost-effective, and accurate, such as
10 during enrollment, and should be updated through other annual means.
11 Participating institutions of higher education shall send their data
12 to the council annually.

13 (2)(a) The council shall convene a work group to provide
14 recommendations for identifying students' parenting status to inform
15 the implementation of subsection (1) of this section.

16 (b) The work group must include members from the following
17 entities:

18 (i) An organization representing the presidents of the public
19 four-year institutions;

20 (ii) The state board of community and technical colleges;

21 (iii) The Washington student association or an organization that
22 coordinates advocacy for students from public institutions of higher
23 education;

24 (iv) Communities for our colleges; and

25 (v) Other entities as necessary and appropriate with relevant
26 experience in educational persistence and support for parenting
27 students.

28 (c) The work group shall develop recommendations of campus and
29 community partnership practices supportive of parenting students
30 pursuing postsecondary education and submit them to the appropriate
31 committees of the legislature by December 1, 2026, in accordance with
32 RCW 43.01.036.

33 (3) The council may adopt rules to implement this section.

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