

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2594

Chapter 201, Laws of 2026

69th Legislature
2026 Regular Session

HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH—PUBLIC EDUCATION

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Yeas 95 Nays 1

LAURIE JINKINS

**Speaker of the House of
Representatives**

Passed by the Senate March 6, 2026
Yeas 48 Nays 0

DENNY HECK

President of the Senate

Approved March 24, 2026 1:57 PM

BOB FERGUSON

Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

I, Bernard Dean, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2594** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

BERNARD DEAN

Chief Clerk

FILED

March 25, 2026

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

1 same free, appropriate public education as provided to other children
2 and youths;

3 (3) Homelessness is not sufficient reason to separate students
4 from the mainstream school environment; and

5 (4) Homeless children and youths should have access to the
6 education and other services that such children and youths need to
7 ensure that such children and youths have an opportunity to meet the
8 same challenging state academic standards to which all students are
9 held.

10 DEFINITIONS

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 201.** The definitions in this section apply
12 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires
13 otherwise.

14 (1) "Enroll" and "enrollment" include attending classes and
15 participating fully in school activities.

16 (2) "Homeless children and youths" means individuals who lack a
17 fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and includes:

18 (a) Children and youths who are sharing the housing of other
19 persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar
20 reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping
21 grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are
22 living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in
23 hospitals;

24 (b) Children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence
25 that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used
26 as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;

27 (c) Children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public
28 spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train
29 stations, or similar settings; and

30 (d) Migratory children, as such term is defined in 20 U.S.C. Sec.
31 6399, who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this chapter or
32 under applicable federal law, because the children are living in
33 circumstances described in (a) through (c) of this subsection.

34 (3) "School of origin" means the school that a child or youth
35 attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child or
36 youth was last enrolled, including a preschool. When the child or
37 youth completes the final grade level served by the school of origin,

1 the term "school of origin" includes the designated receiving school
2 at the next grade level for all feeder schools.

3 (4) "Unaccompanied youth" includes a homeless child or youth not
4 in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

5 **STATE PLAN FOR THE EDUCATION OF HOMELESS CHILDREN**

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 301.** (1) The superintendent of public
7 instruction shall submit to the legislature a plan to provide for the
8 education of homeless children and youths within the state. Such plan
9 must include the following:

10 (a) A description of how homeless children and youths are, or
11 will be, given the opportunity to meet the same challenging state
12 academic standards as all students are expected to meet;

13 (b) A description of the procedures the office of the
14 superintendent of public instruction will use to identify homeless
15 children and youths in the state and to assess their needs;

16 (c) A description of procedures for the prompt resolution of
17 disputes regarding the educational placement of homeless children and
18 youths;

19 (d) A description of programs for school personnel, including
20 school district liaisons designated under (j)(ii) of this subsection,
21 principals and other school leaders, attendance officers, teachers,
22 enrollment personnel, and specialized instructional support
23 personnel, to heighten the awareness of such school personnel of the
24 specific needs of homeless children and youths, including such
25 children and youths who are runaway and homeless youths;

26 (e) A description of procedures that ensure that homeless
27 children and youths who meet the relevant eligibility criteria are
28 able to participate in federal, state, or local nutrition programs;

29 (f) A description of procedures that ensure that:

30 (i) Homeless children and youths who meet the relevant
31 eligibility criteria have access to public preschool programs
32 administered by school districts to the same extent as other
33 children;

34 (ii) Homeless children and youths, and youths separated from
35 public schools, are identified and accorded equal access to
36 appropriate secondary education and support services, including by
37 identifying and removing barriers that prevent youths described in
38 this subsection from receiving appropriate credit for full or partial

1 coursework satisfactorily completed while attending a prior school,
2 in accordance with state, local, and school policies; and

3 (iii) Homeless children and youths who meet the relevant
4 eligibility criteria do not face barriers to accessing academic and
5 extracurricular activities, including magnet school, summer school,
6 career and technical education, advanced placement, alternative
7 learning experience courses, and charter school programs, if such
8 programs are available at the local levels;

9 (g) Strategies to address problems identified in the report
10 provided to the secretary of the United States department of
11 education under section 601(2)(c) of this act, if applicable;

12 (h) Strategies to address other problems with respect to the
13 education of homeless children and youths, including problems
14 resulting from enrollment delays that are caused by:

15 (i) Requirements of immunization and other required health
16 records;

17 (ii) Residency requirements;

18 (iii) Lack of birth certificates, school records, or other
19 documentation;

20 (iv) Guardianship issues; or

21 (v) Uniform or dress code requirements;

22 (i) A demonstration that the office of the superintendent of
23 public instruction and all school districts have developed, and shall
24 review and revise, policies to remove barriers to the identification
25 of homeless children and youths, and the enrollment and retention of
26 homeless children and youths in schools in the state, including
27 barriers to enrollment and retention due to outstanding fees or
28 fines, or absences, if applicable;

29 (j) Assurances that the following will be carried out:

30 (i) The office of the superintendent of public instruction and
31 all school districts will adopt policies and practices to ensure that
32 homeless children and youths are not stigmatized or segregated on the
33 basis of their status as homeless;

34 (ii) All school districts will designate an appropriate staff
35 person, able to carry out the duties described in section 501 of this
36 act, who may also be a coordinator for other federal programs, as a
37 school district liaison for homeless children and youths;

38 (iii) The office of the superintendent of public instruction and
39 all school districts will adopt policies and practices to ensure that
40 transportation is provided, at the request of the parent or guardian,

1 or in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the school district
2 liaison, to and from the school of origin, as determined in
3 accordance with section 401 of this act, and in accordance with the
4 following, as applicable:

5 (A) If the homeless child or youth continues to live in the area
6 served by the school district in which the school of origin is
7 located, the homeless child's or youth's transportation to and from
8 the school of origin must be provided or arranged by the school
9 district in which the school of origin is located; and

10 (B) If the homeless child's or youth's living arrangements in the
11 area served by the school district of origin terminate and the
12 homeless child or youth, though continuing the homeless child's or
13 youth's education in the school of origin, begins living in an area
14 served by another school district, the school district of origin and
15 the school district in which the homeless child or youth is living
16 shall agree upon a method to apportion the responsibility and costs
17 for providing the homeless child or youth with transportation to and
18 from the school of origin. If the school districts are unable to
19 agree upon such method, the responsibility and costs for
20 transportation must be shared equally; and

21 (iv) The office of the superintendent of public instruction and
22 all school districts will adopt policies and practices to ensure
23 participation by school district liaisons in professional development
24 and other technical assistance activities provided pursuant to
25 section 601(2) (e) and (f) of this act, as determined appropriate by
26 the office of the coordinator for education of homeless children and
27 youths established in section 601 of this act; and

28 (k) A description of how homeless youths will receive assistance
29 from counselors to advise such youths and prepare and improve the
30 readiness of such youths for college.

31 (2) The plan adopted under this section must also: Describe how
32 the state will ensure that school districts will comply with the
33 requirements of section 401 of this act, and indicate what technical
34 assistance the state will furnish to school districts and how
35 compliance efforts will be coordinated with the school district
36 liaisons designated under subsection (1)(j)(ii) of this section.

37 **DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 401.** (1) The school district serving each
2 homeless child or youth to be assisted under this chapter shall,
3 according to the homeless child's or youth's best interest:

4 (a) Continue the homeless child's or youth's education in the
5 school of origin for the duration of homelessness:

6 (i) In any case in which a family becomes homeless between school
7 years or during school year; and

8 (ii) For the remainder of the academic year, if the homeless
9 child or youth becomes permanently housed during a school year; or

10 (b) Enroll the homeless child or youth in any public school that
11 nonhomeless students who live in the attendance area in which the
12 homeless child or youth is actually living are eligible to attend,
13 and provide the homeless child's or youth's academic records to the
14 school in which the homeless child or youth is enrolling.

15 (2) In determining the best interest of the homeless child or
16 youth under subsection (1) of this section, the school district
17 shall:

18 (a) Presume that keeping the homeless child or youth in the
19 school of origin is in the homeless child's or youth's best interest,
20 except when doing so is contrary to the request of the homeless
21 child's or youth's parent or guardian, or, in the case of an
22 unaccompanied youth, the youth;

23 (b) Consider student-centered factors related to the homeless
24 child's or youth's best interest, including factors related to the
25 impact of mobility on achievement, education, health, and safety of
26 homeless children and youth, giving priority to the request of the
27 homeless child's or youth's parent or guardian or, in the case of an
28 unaccompanied youth, the youth;

29 (c) If, after conducting the best interest determination based on
30 consideration of the presumption in (a) of this subsection (2) and
31 the student-centered factors in (b) of this subsection (2), the
32 school district determines that it is not in the homeless child's or
33 youth's best interest to attend the school of origin or the school
34 requested by the parent or guardian, or, in the case of an
35 unaccompanied youth, the youth, provide the homeless child's or
36 youth's parent or guardian or the unaccompanied youth with a written
37 explanation of the reasons for its determination, in a manner and
38 form understandable to such parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth,
39 including information regarding the right to appeal under subsection
40 (5) of this section; and

1 (d) In the case of an unaccompanied youth, ensure that the school
2 district liaison designated under section 301(1)(j)(ii) of this act
3 assists in placement or enrollment decisions under this subsection,
4 gives priority to the views of such unaccompanied youth, and provides
5 notice to such youth of the right to appeal under subsection (5) of
6 this section.

7 (3)(a) The school selected in accordance with subsection (2) of
8 this section shall immediately enroll the homeless child or youth,
9 even if the homeless child or youth:

10 (i) Is unable to produce records normally required under RCW
11 28A.225.330 for enrollment, such as previous academic records,
12 records of immunization and other required health records, proof of
13 residency, or other documentation; or

14 (ii) Has missed application or enrollment deadlines during any
15 period of homelessness.

16 (b) The enrolling school shall immediately contact the school
17 last attended by the homeless child or youth to obtain relevant
18 academic and other records.

19 (c) If the homeless child or youth needs to obtain immunizations
20 or other required health records, the enrolling school shall
21 immediately refer the parent or guardian of the homeless child or
22 youth, or, in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the youth, to the
23 school district liaison designated under section 301(1)(j)(ii) of
24 this act, who shall assist in obtaining necessary immunizations or
25 screenings, or immunization or other required health records, in
26 accordance with subsection (4) of this section.

27 (4) Any record ordinarily kept by the school, including
28 immunization or other required health records, academic records,
29 birth certificates, guardianship records, and evaluations for special
30 services or programs, regarding each homeless child or youth must be
31 maintained so that the records involved are available, in a timely
32 fashion, when a homeless child or youth enters a new school or school
33 district.

34 (5) If a dispute arises over eligibility, or school selection or
35 enrollment in a school:

36 (a) The homeless child or youth must be immediately enrolled in
37 the school in which enrollment is sought, pending final resolution of
38 the dispute, including all available appeals;

39 (b) The parent or guardian of the homeless child or youth or, in
40 the case of an unaccompanied youth, the youth must be provided with a

1 written explanation of any decisions related to school selection or
2 enrollment made by the school, the school district, or the office of
3 the superintendent of public instruction, including the rights of the
4 parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth to appeal such decisions;

5 (c) The parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth must be referred
6 to the school district liaison designated under section 301(1)(j)(ii)
7 of this act, who shall carry out the dispute resolution process as
8 described in section 301(1)(c) as expeditiously as possible after
9 receiving notice of the dispute; and

10 (d) In the case of an unaccompanied youth, the school district
11 liaison shall ensure that the youth is immediately enrolled in the
12 school in which the youth seeks enrollment pending resolution of such
13 dispute.

14 (6) The choice regarding placement must be made regardless of
15 whether the homeless child or youth lives with the homeless parents
16 or has been temporarily placed elsewhere.

17 (7) Information about a homeless child's or youth's living
18 situation must be treated as a student education record, and may not
19 be deemed to be directory information, under 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1232g.

20 (8) Nothing in this section prohibits a school district from
21 requiring a parent or guardian of a homeless child or youth to submit
22 contact information.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 402.** (1) Each homeless child or youth to be
24 assisted under this chapter must be provided services comparable to
25 services offered to other students in the school selected under
26 section 401(1) of this act, including the following:

27 (a) Transportation services;

28 (b) Educational services for which the homeless child or youth
29 meets the eligibility criteria, such as services provided under Title
30 I of the elementary and secondary education act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
31 6301 et seq.) or similar state or local programs, educational
32 programs for children with disabilities, and educational programs for
33 English learners;

34 (c) Programs in career and technical education;

35 (d) Programs for highly capable students; and

36 (e) School nutrition programs.

37 (2) Each school district serving homeless children and youths
38 that receives funding provided by specific reference for this chapter
39 in the omnibus appropriations act shall coordinate:

1 (a) The provision of services under this chapter with local
2 social services agencies and other agencies or entities providing
3 services to homeless children and youths and their families,
4 including services and programs funded under the runaway and homeless
5 youth act, 42 U.S.C. 5701 et seq.; and

6 (b) Transportation, transfer of school records, and other
7 interdistrict activities, with other school districts.

8 (3) If applicable, each school district that receives funding for
9 implementing this chapter shall coordinate with state and local
10 housing agencies responsible for developing the comprehensive housing
11 affordability strategy described in 42 U.S.C. Sec. 12705 to minimize
12 educational disruption for children and youths who become homeless.

13 (4) The coordination required under subsections (2) and (3) of
14 this section must be designed to:

15 (a) Ensure that all homeless children and youths are promptly
16 identified;

17 (b) Ensure that all homeless children and youths have access to,
18 and are in reasonable proximity to, available education and related
19 support services; and

20 (c) Raise the awareness of school personnel and service providers
21 of the effects of short-term stays in a shelter and other challenges
22 associated with homelessness.

23 (5) For homeless children and youths who are to be assisted both
24 under this chapter and under the individuals with disabilities
25 education act, 20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq. or 29 U.S.C. Sec. 794, each
26 school district shall coordinate the provision of services under this
27 chapter with the provision of programs for children with disabilities
28 served by that school district and other involved school districts.

29 **SCHOOL DISTRICT LIAISONS**

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 501.** (1) Each school district liaison for
31 homeless children and youths, designated under section 301(1)(j)(ii)
32 of this act, shall ensure that:

33 (a) Homeless children and youths are identified by school
34 personnel through outreach and coordination activities with other
35 entities and agencies;

36 (b) Homeless children and youths are enrolled in, and have a full
37 and equal opportunity to succeed in, schools of that school district;

1 (c) Homeless families and homeless children and youths have
2 access to and receive educational services for which such families,
3 children, and youths are eligible, including services through head
4 start programs, including early head start programs under the head
5 start act, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 9831 et seq., early intervention services
6 under Part C of the individuals with disabilities education act, 20
7 U.S.C. Sec. 1431 et seq., and other preschool programs administered
8 by the school district;

9 (d) Homeless families and homeless children and youths receive
10 referrals to health care services, dental services, mental health and
11 substance abuse services, housing services, and other appropriate
12 services;

13 (e) The parents or guardians of homeless children and youths are
14 informed of the educational and related opportunities available to
15 their children and are provided with meaningful opportunities to
16 participate in the education of their children;

17 (f) Public notice of the educational rights of homeless children
18 and youths is disseminated in locations frequented by parents or
19 guardians of such children and youths, and unaccompanied youths,
20 including schools, shelters, public libraries, and soup kitchens, in
21 a manner and form understandable to the parents and guardians of
22 homeless children and youths, and unaccompanied youths;

23 (g) Enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with section
24 401(5) of this act;

25 (h) The parent or guardian of a homeless child or youth, and any
26 unaccompanied youth, is fully informed of all transportation
27 services, including transportation to the school of origin, as
28 described in section 301(1)(j)(iii) of this act, and is assisted in
29 accessing transportation to the school that is selected under section
30 401(1) of this act;

31 (i) School personnel providing services under this chapter
32 receive professional development and other support; and

33 (j) Unaccompanied youths:

34 (i) Are enrolled in school;

35 (ii) Have opportunities to meet the same challenging state
36 academic standards as the state establishes for other children and
37 youth, including through implementation of the procedures under
38 section 301(1)(f)(ii) of this act; and

39 (iii) Are informed of their status as independent students under
40 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1087vv and that the youths may obtain assistance from

1 the school district liaison to receive verification of such status
2 for purposes of the free application for federal student aid
3 described in 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1090.

4 (2) The coordinator for education of homeless children and youths
5 established under section 601 of this act and school districts shall
6 inform school personnel, service providers, advocates working with
7 homeless families, parents and guardians of homeless children and
8 youths, and homeless children and youths of the duties of the school
9 district liaisons, and publish an annually updated list of the school
10 district liaisons on the website of the office of the superintendent
11 of public instruction.

12 (3) School district liaisons for homeless children and youths
13 shall, as a part of their duties, coordinate and collaborate with the
14 coordinator for education of homeless children and youths established
15 under section 601 of this act and community and school personnel
16 responsible for the provision of education and related services to
17 homeless children and youths. Such coordination must include
18 collecting and providing to the coordinator for education of homeless
19 children and youths the reliable, valid, and comprehensive data
20 needed to meet the requirements of section 601(2) (a) and (c) of this
21 act.

22 (4)(a) Each school district that receives funding provided by
23 specific reference for this chapter in the omnibus appropriations act
24 shall review and revise any policies that may act as barriers to the
25 identification of homeless children and youths or the enrollment of
26 homeless children and youths in schools that are selected in
27 accordance with best interest determinations for the students.

28 (b) In reviewing and revising such policies, consideration must
29 be given to issues concerning transportation, immunization,
30 residency, birth certificates, school records and other
31 documentation, and guardianship.

32 (c) Special attention must be given to ensuring the
33 identification, enrollment, and attendance of homeless children and
34 youths who are not currently attending school.

35 **STATE COORDINATOR**

36 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 601.** (1) The office of the superintendent of
37 public instruction shall establish or designate an office of the
38 coordinator for education of homeless children and youths.

1 (2) The coordinator for education of homeless children and youths
2 established in accordance with either applicable federal law, this
3 section, or both, shall:

4 (a) Gather and make publicly available reliable, valid, and
5 comprehensive information on:

6 (i) The number of homeless children and youths identified in the
7 state, which must be posted annually on the website of the
8 superintendent of public instruction;

9 (ii) The nature and extent of the problems homeless children and
10 youths have in gaining access to public preschool programs and to
11 public elementary schools and secondary schools;

12 (iii) The difficulties in identifying the special needs and
13 barriers to the participation and achievement of such children and
14 youths;

15 (iv) Any progress made by the office of the superintendent of
16 public instruction and school districts in the state in addressing
17 such problems and difficulties; and

18 (v) The success of the programs under this chapter in identifying
19 homeless children and youths and allowing such children and youths to
20 enroll in, attend, and succeed in, school;

21 (b) Develop and carry out the state plan described in section 301
22 of this act;

23 (c) Collect data for and transmit to the secretary of the United
24 States department of education, at such time and in such manner as
25 the secretary may reasonably require, a report containing information
26 necessary to assess the educational needs of homeless children and
27 youths within the state, including data necessary for the secretary
28 to fulfill the responsibilities under the McKinney-Vento homeless
29 assistance act, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 11434(h), if applicable;

30 (d) In order to improve the provision of comprehensive education
31 and related services to homeless children and youths and their
32 families, coordinate activities and collaborate with:

33 (i) Educators, including teachers, special education personnel,
34 administrators, and child development and preschool program
35 personnel;

36 (ii) Providers of services to homeless children and youths and
37 their families, including public and private child welfare and social
38 services agencies, law enforcement agencies, juvenile and family
39 courts, agencies providing mental health services, domestic violence
40 agencies, child care providers, runaway and homeless youth centers,

1 and providers of services and programs funded under the runaway and
2 homeless youth act, 42 U.S.C. 5701 et seq.;

3 (iii) Providers of emergency, transitional, and permanent housing
4 to homeless children and youths, and their families, including public
5 housing agencies, shelter operators, operators of transitional
6 housing facilities, and providers of transitional living programs for
7 homeless youths;

8 (iv) School district liaisons designated under section
9 301(1)(j)(ii) of this act for homeless children and youths; and

10 (v) Community organizations and groups representing homeless
11 children and youths and their families;

12 (e) Provide technical assistance to and conduct monitoring of
13 school districts in coordination with school district liaisons
14 designated under section 301(1)(j)(ii) of this act, to ensure that
15 school districts comply with the requirements in sections 401 through
16 501, 802, and 901 of this act;

17 (f) Provide professional development opportunities for school
18 district personnel and the school district liaison designated under
19 section 301(1)(j)(ii) of this act to assist such personnel and
20 liaison in identifying and meeting the needs of homeless children and
21 youths, and provide training to the liaison on the definitions of
22 terms related to homelessness specified in section 201 of this act
23 and the McKinney-Vento homeless assistance act, 42 U.S.C. Secs. 11302
24 and 11360, if applicable; and

25 (g) Respond to inquiries from parents and guardians of homeless
26 children and youths, and, in the case of unaccompanied youths, such
27 youths, to ensure that each child or youth who is the subject of such
28 an inquiry receives the full protections and services provided by
29 this chapter.

30 **OSPI DUTIES AND AUTHORITY**

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 701.** (1) The office of the superintendent of
32 public instruction shall, directly or through grants, contracts, or
33 cooperative agreements, periodically collect and disseminate data and
34 information regarding:

35 (a) The number and primary nighttime residence of homeless
36 children and youths in all areas served by school districts;

37 (b) The education and related services such children and youths
38 receive;

1 (c) The extent to which the needs of homeless children and youths
2 are being met; and

3 (d) Such other data and information as the superintendent of
4 public instruction determines to be necessary and relevant to carry
5 out this chapter.

6 (2) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
7 coordinate such collection and dissemination with other agencies and
8 entities that receive assistance and administer programs under the
9 McKinney-Vento homeless assistance act, 42 U.S.C. Secs. 11431 -
10 11435, this chapter, or both.

11 (3) The requirements of subsections (1) and (2) of this section
12 do not apply if equivalent requirements in the McKinney-Vento
13 homeless assistance act, 42 U.S.C. Secs. 11431-11435 are assigned to
14 the secretary of the United States department of education.

15 (4) By October 1, 2030, and every four years thereafter, the
16 office of the superintendent of public instruction must prepare and
17 submit to the governor and the legislature, a report on the status of
18 education of homeless children and youths in Washington, which must
19 include information on:

20 (a) The education of homeless children and youths; and

21 (b) The actions of the superintendent of public instruction and
22 the effectiveness of the programs supported under this chapter.

23 GRANTS TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 801.** (1) Subject to the availability of
25 amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the office of the
26 superintendent of public instruction shall make grants available to
27 school districts for the purpose of facilitating services related to
28 the identification, enrollment, attendance, and success in school of
29 homeless children and youths.

30 (2) Services provided under subsection (1) of this section:

31 (a) May be provided through programs on school grounds or at
32 other facilities;

33 (b) Must, to the maximum extent practicable, be provided through
34 existing programs and mechanisms that integrate homeless children and
35 youths with nonhomeless children and youths; and

36 (c) Must be designed to expand or improve services provided as
37 part of a school's regular academic program, but not to replace such
38 services provided under such program.

1 (3) If services under subsection (1) of this section are provided
2 on school grounds, the related schools:

3 (a) May use funding provided by specific reference for this
4 chapter in the omnibus appropriations act to provide the same
5 services to other children and youths who are determined by the
6 school district to be at risk of failing in, or dropping out of,
7 school, subject to the requirements of (b) of this subsection (3);
8 and

9 (b) May not provide services in settings within a school that
10 segregate homeless children and youths from other children and
11 youths, except as necessary for short periods of time:

12 (i) For health and safety emergencies; or

13 (ii) To provide temporary, special, and supplementary services to
14 meet the unique needs of homeless children and youths.

15 (4) Services provided under this section may not replace the
16 regular academic program and must be designed to expand upon or
17 improve services provided as part of the school's regular academic
18 program.

19 (5) Grants made under this section must be for terms not to
20 exceed three years.

21 (6) A school district that desires to receive a grant under this
22 section shall submit an application to the office of the
23 superintendent of public instruction at such time, in such manner,
24 and containing or accompanied by such information as the office of
25 the superintendent of public instruction may reasonably require. Such
26 application must include the following:

27 (a) An assessment of the educational and related needs of
28 homeless children and youths in the area served by such school
29 district, which may be undertaken as part of needs assessments for
30 other disadvantaged groups;

31 (b) A description of the services and programs for which
32 assistance is sought to address the needs identified in (a) of this
33 subsection (6);

34 (c) An assurance that the school district's combined fiscal
35 effort per student, or the aggregate expenditures of that school
36 district and the state with respect to the provision of free public
37 education by such school district for the fiscal year preceding the
38 fiscal year for which the determination is made, was not less than 90
39 percent of such combined fiscal effort or aggregate expenditures for

1 the second fiscal year preceding the fiscal year for which the
2 determination is made;

3 (d) An assurance that the applicant complies with or will use
4 requested funds to comply with sections 401, 402, and 501 of this
5 act;

6 (e) A description of policies and procedures, consistent with
7 section 212 of this act, that the school district will implement to
8 ensure that activities carried out by the school district will not
9 isolate or stigmatize homeless children and youths;

10 (f) An assurance that the school district will collect and
11 promptly provide data requested by the coordinator for education of
12 homeless children and youths pursuant to section 601(2) of this act;
13 and

14 (g) An assurance that the school district will meet the
15 requirements of section 401 of this act.

16 (7)(a) The office of the superintendent of public instruction
17 shall, in accordance with the requirements of this chapter and from
18 amounts made available to it by appropriation, make competitive
19 grants to school districts that submit applications under subsection
20 (6) of this section. Such grants must be awarded on the basis of the
21 need of such school districts for assistance under this section and
22 the quality of the applications submitted.

23 (b) In determining need under (a) of this subsection (7), the
24 office of the superintendent of public instruction may consider the
25 number of homeless children and youths enrolled in early childhood
26 education and other preschool programs, elementary schools, and
27 secondary schools, within the area served by the school district, and
28 shall consider the needs of such children and youths and the ability
29 of the school district to meet such needs. The office of the
30 superintendent of public instruction may also consider the following:

31 (i) The extent to which the proposed use of funds will facilitate
32 the identification, enrollment, retention, and educational success of
33 homeless children and youths;

34 (ii) The extent to which the application reflects coordination
35 with other local and state agencies that serve homeless children and
36 youths;

37 (iii) The extent to which the applicant exhibits in the
38 application and in current practice, as of the date of submission of
39 the application, a commitment to education for all homeless children
40 and youths; and

1 (iv) Such other criteria as the office of the superintendent of
2 public instruction determines appropriate.

3 (c) In determining the quality of applications under (a) of this
4 subsection (7), the office of the superintendent of public
5 instruction shall consider the following:

6 (i) The applicant's needs assessment under (a) of this subsection
7 (7) and the likelihood that the program presented in the application
8 will meet such needs;

9 (ii) The types, intensity, and coordination of the services to be
10 provided under the program;

11 (iii) The extent to which the applicant will promote meaningful
12 involvement of parents or guardians of homeless children or youths in
13 the education of their children;

14 (iv) The extent to which homeless children and youths will be
15 integrated into the regular education program;

16 (v) The quality of the applicant's evaluation plan for the
17 program;

18 (vi) The extent to which services provided under this chapter
19 will be coordinated with other services available to homeless
20 children and youths and their families;

21 (vii) The extent to which the school district will use the grant
22 to leverage resources, including by maximizing nonsubgrant funding
23 for the position of the school district liaison described in section
24 501 of this act and the provision of transportation;

25 (viii) How the school district will use funds to serve homeless
26 children and youths under section 1113(c)(3) of the elementary and
27 secondary education act of 1965, 20 U.S.C. Sec. 6313(c)(3); and

28 (ix) The extent to which the applicant's program meets such other
29 measures as the office of the superintendent considers indicative of
30 a high quality program, such as the extent to which the school
31 district will provide case management or related services to
32 unaccompanied youths.

33 (8) A school district may use funds awarded under this section
34 for activities that carry out the purpose of this chapter, including
35 the following:

36 (a) The provision of tutoring, supplemental instruction, and
37 enriched educational services that are linked to the achievement of
38 the same challenging state academic standards as the state
39 establishes for other children and youths;

1 (b) The provision of expedited evaluations of the strengths and
2 needs of homeless children and youths, including needs and
3 eligibility for programs and services, such as educational programs
4 for highly capable students, children with disabilities, and English
5 learners, services provided under Title I of the elementary and
6 secondary education act of 1965, 20 U.S.C. Sec. 6301 et seq. or
7 similar state or local programs, programs in career and technical
8 education, and school nutrition programs;

9 (c) Professional development and other activities for educators
10 and specialized instructional support personnel that are designed to
11 heighten the understanding and sensitivity of such personnel to the
12 needs of homeless children and youths, the rights of such children
13 and youths, and the specific educational needs of runaway and
14 homeless youths;

15 (d) The provision of referral services to homeless children and
16 youths for medical, dental, mental, and other health services;

17 (e) The provision of assistance to defray the excess cost of
18 transportation for students under section 402(1)(a) of this act, not
19 otherwise provided through federal, state, or local funding, where
20 necessary to enable students to attend the school selected under
21 section 401 of this act;

22 (f) The provision of developmentally appropriate early childhood
23 education programs, not otherwise provided through federal, state, or
24 local funding, for preschool-aged homeless children;

25 (g) The provision of services and assistance to attract, engage,
26 and retain homeless children and youths, particularly homeless
27 children and youths who are not enrolled in school, in public school
28 programs and services provided to nonhomeless children and youths;

29 (h) The provision for homeless children and youths of before-
30 school and after-school, mentoring, and summer programs in which a
31 teacher or other qualified individual provides tutoring, homework
32 assistance, and supervision of educational activities;

33 (i) If necessary, the payment of fees and other costs associated
34 with tracking, obtaining, and transferring records necessary to
35 enroll homeless children and youths in school, including birth
36 certificates, immunization or other required health records, academic
37 records, guardianship records, and evaluations for special programs
38 or services;

39 (j) The provision of education and training to the parents and
40 guardians of homeless children and youths about the rights of, and

1 resources available to, such children and youths, and other
2 activities designed to increase the meaningful involvement of parents
3 and guardians of homeless children or youths in the education of such
4 children or youths;

5 (k) The development of coordination between schools and agencies
6 providing services to homeless children and youths, as described in
7 section 402 (2) through (5) of this act;

8 (l) The provision of specialized instructional support services,
9 including violence prevention counseling, and referrals for such
10 services;

11 (m) Activities to address the particular needs of homeless
12 children and youths that may arise from domestic violence and
13 parental mental health or substance abuse problems;

14 (n) The adaptation of space and purchase of supplies for any
15 nonschool facilities made available under subsection (2) of this
16 section to provide services under this section;

17 (o) The provision of school supplies, including those supplies to
18 be distributed at shelters or temporary housing facilities, or other
19 appropriate locations; and

20 (p) The provision of other extraordinary or emergency assistance
21 needed to enable homeless children and youths to attend school and
22 participate fully in school activities.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 802.** (1) A school district applying for
24 grants under section 801 of this act to implement this chapter must
25 demonstrate that the school district is meeting, as of the date of
26 submission of the application, the same federal and state standards,
27 regulations, and mandates as other public schools in the state, such
28 as complying with section 1111 of the elementary and secondary
29 education act of 1965, 20 U.S.C. Sec. 6311 and providing a full range
30 of education and related services, including services applicable to
31 students with disabilities.

32 (2) A school district applying for grants as provided in
33 subsection (1) of this section that fails to meet the standards,
34 regulations, and mandates described in subsection (1) of this section
35 is not eligible to receive funding provided by specific reference for
36 this chapter in the omnibus appropriations act for programs carried
37 out in such school after the first date of such failure.

Passed by the House March 11, 2026.
Passed by the Senate March 6, 2026.
Approved by the Governor March 24, 2026.
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