
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6454

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education (originally sponsored by Senators Tom, McAuliffe, Rasmussen, Kline, Shin, Kohl-Welles, and Rockefeller)

READ FIRST TIME 02/01/08.

1 AN ACT Relating to improving educational outcomes for students in
2 foster care; amending RCW 28A.150.510; adding new sections to chapter
3 28A.310 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 28A.300 RCW; adding a new
4 section to chapter 74.13 RCW; and making appropriations.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.310
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 Subject to the availability of funds appropriated for this purpose,
9 the Puget Sound educational service district shall designate a foster
10 care program supervisor to coordinate programs and services for
11 students in foster care. The foster care program supervisor shall:

12 (1) Facilitate the use of education system resources to improve
13 educational stability and other measurable outcomes for children in
14 children's administration out-of-home care and enrolled in a school
15 district within the Puget Sound educational service district;

16 (2) Develop and distribute model school district policies to
17 improve services and supports to children in children's administration
18 out-of-home care and enrolled in a school district within the Puget
19 Sound educational service district;

1 (3) Provide training to public school staff on the impact of child
2 abuse and neglect, school preparedness, and the child welfare system
3 upon children who live in children's administration out-of-home care,
4 the likely need for students in children's administration out-of-home
5 care to have a strong relationship with one or more adults at school
6 and academic and behavioral remediation, and the need to determine
7 eligibility of students in children's administration out-of-home care
8 for the many programs for which they qualify that are provided in
9 schools;

10 (4) Provide technical assistance to schools concerning interagency
11 agreements and children's administration policies relative to the
12 education of children who live in children's administration out-of-home
13 care;

14 (5) Coordinate with the McKinney-Vento education of homeless
15 children and youth program supervisor within the office of the
16 superintendent of public instruction on issues that relate to the
17 definition of children's administration out-of-home care and
18 homelessness;

19 (6) Coordinate with the office of the superintendent of public
20 instruction the legal interpretations of the family education rights
21 and privacy act and the health insurance portability and accountability
22 act relative to data exchange;

23 (7) Provide technical assistance to school districts within the
24 Puget Sound educational service district to facilitate local data
25 exchange;

26 (8) Coordinate with the region 4 and region 5 children's
27 administration education leads to facilitate completion of interagency
28 agreements for top priority school districts within the Puget Sound
29 educational service district; and

30 (9) Establish a model information and data-sharing agreement
31 between school districts and the children's administration and
32 facilitate completion of information and data-sharing agreements.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300
34 RCW to read as follows:

35 The superintendent of public instruction shall provide an annual
36 aggregate report to the legislature on the educational experiences and
37 progress of students in children's administration out-of-home care.

1 This data should be disaggregated in the smallest units allowable by
2 law that do not identify an individual student, in order to learn which
3 school districts are experiencing the greatest success and challenges
4 in achieving quality educational outcomes with students in children's
5 administration out-of-home care.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.310
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 (1) Subject to the availability of funds appropriated for this
9 purpose, the Puget Sound educational service district shall create a
10 grant program for local school districts to improve stability and
11 educational outcomes for students in foster care. Grants shall be
12 awarded to school districts with the highest incidence of child
13 protective services removals and foster care placements under chapter
14 13.34 RCW.

15 (2) School districts receiving grants under this section shall
16 agree to the following:

17 (a) The grant shall not supplant funding already in place for all
18 students.

19 (b) The grant shall be used to supplement and enhance educational
20 stability and educational outcomes for students in foster care.

21 (3) Grant activities may include but are not limited to the
22 following:

23 (a) Dedicated staff time for:

24 (i) Additional counselor support for students in foster care and
25 foster parent support;

26 (ii) Facilitation of education planning meetings with children's
27 administration caseworkers, students, foster and relative caregivers,
28 other community providers, and birth parents when appropriate;

29 (iii) Coordination with programs for which students in foster care
30 may be eligible including: Title I, Upward Bound, free and reduced
31 meals, etc.;

32 (iv) Tutoring;

33 (v) Temporary arrangements for transportation to enhance
34 educational stability;

35 (vi) Coordination with the McKinney-Vento education of homeless
36 children and youth program activities within the office of the

1 superintendent of public instruction and local school district Title X
2 liaisons;

3 (vii) Activities promoting engagement of foster parents in school
4 programming activities;

5 (viii) Outreach to birth parents, when appropriate;

6 (ix) Assurance of timely and accurate record and data transfer when
7 a student in foster care moves to a different school;

8 (x) Support for school-based foster parent recruitment; and

9 (xi) Additional school staff training concerning the
10 characteristics and needs of students in foster care including
11 protecting the right to privacy for students in foster care;

12 (b) Fees normally covered by parents for extracurricular activity
13 participation, school pictures, yearbooks, ASB cards, school fines,
14 etc.

15 (4) The Puget Sound educational service district shall annually
16 submit a report to the legislature on grant program outcomes under this
17 section.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 74.13 RCW
19 to read as follows:

20 (1) Subject to availability of funds appropriated specifically for
21 this purpose, the department of social and health services, within the
22 children's administration, shall fund two school district-based foster
23 care recruitment pilots in one or more of the school districts with the
24 highest number of child protective services removals and out-of-home
25 placements under chapter 13.34 RCW. Pilots must coordinate with
26 existing foster care recruitment contracts and the family-to-family
27 model. Funds can be used to expand existing contracts or fund
28 children's administration staff.

29 (2) The department of social and health services shall annually
30 report to the legislature on the increase or decrease of foster homes
31 within the pilot areas.

32 **Sec. 5.** RCW 28A.150.510 and 2000 c 88 s 1 are each amended to read
33 as follows:

34 In order to effectively serve students who are ((~~under the~~
35 ~~jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system as~~)) dependent pursuant to
36 chapter 13.34 RCW, education records shall be ((~~released upon~~))

1 transmitted to the department of social and health services within two
2 school days after receiving the request ((~~to~~)) from the department ((~~of~~
3 social and health services)) provided that the department ((~~of social~~
4 and health services)) certifies that it will not disclose to any other
5 party the education records without prior written consent of the parent
6 or student unless authorized to disclose the records under state law.
7 The department of social and health services is authorized to disclose
8 education records it obtains pursuant to this section to a foster
9 parent, guardian, or other entity authorized by the department ((~~of~~
10 social and health services)) to provide residential care to the
11 student.

12 NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. (1) The sum of five hundred eighty-five
13 thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is
14 appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, from the general
15 fund to the department of social and health services children's
16 administration for the purposes of increasing the number of educational
17 advocacy coordinators in the educational advocacy program by nine full-
18 time employees. A portion of these full-time employees may be assigned
19 to increase educational continuity.

20 (2) The sum of one hundred eight thousand dollars, or as much
21 thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending
22 June 30, 2009, from the general fund to the department of social and
23 health services children's administration for the purposes of section
24 4 of this act.

25 NEW SECTION. Sec. 7. (1) The sum of fifty thousand dollars, or as
26 much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year
27 ending June 30, 2009, from the general fund to the Puget Sound
28 educational service district for the purposes of section 1 of this act.

29 (2) The sum of two hundred thousand dollars, or as much thereof as
30 may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30,
31 2009, from the general fund to the Puget Sound educational service
32 district for the purposes of section 3 of this act.

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