
SENATE BILL 5379

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Senators Wilson, C., Nguyen, Saldaña, Darneille, Das, Hasegawa, Hunt, Keiser, and Zeiger

Read first time 01/18/19. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to providing services and supports to parenting
2 minors to improve educational attainment; adding a new section to
3 chapter 74.12 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 43.216 RCW; adding
4 a new section to chapter 28A.300 RCW; adding a new section to chapter
5 28A.160 RCW; creating a new section; providing an effective date; and
6 providing an expiration date.

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

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the graduation,
9 reality, and dual-role skills program was reported by the Washington
10 state institute for public policy to deliver a benefit-cost ratio of
11 three dollars for every program dollar spent and that graduation,
12 reality, and dual-role skills program students have a ten percent
13 greater high school graduation rate when compared to pregnant and
14 parenting students not in a graduation, reality, and dual-role skills
15 program. The legislature further finds that the United States census
16 bureau reported for 2017 that nearly twenty-five percent of people
17 ages twenty-five and older without a high school diploma lived in
18 poverty and that intergenerational poverty can affect the lives of
19 future generations unless the cycle of poverty is interrupted with
20 effective services. Therefore, the legislature intends to improve
21 family unity, student outcomes, and the development of our future

1 workforce by removing programmatic barriers and promoting
2 coordination among programs that deliver services to parenting
3 minors.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 74.12
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1) An applicant is eligible to receive the maximum temporary
7 assistance for needy families grant award regardless of the
8 applicant's income if the applicant:

9 (a) Is under eighteen years of age;

10 (b) Has a dependent child or children in the applicant's care;

11 (c) Has available resources with values that do not exceed the
12 exemption limits set forth in the definition of "resource" under RCW
13 74.04.005;

14 (d) Is actively progressing towards meeting the education
15 requirements established under RCW 74.08A.380; and

16 (e) Is otherwise qualified to receive assistance under this
17 title.

18 (2) If a minor parent applicant lives with a parent or guardian
19 who is not receiving assistance under this title, the income and
20 resources of the parent or guardian of the minor parent applicant may
21 not be considered for the purposes of determining the minor parent
22 applicant's eligibility for assistance.

23 (3) The income and resources of the natural or adoptive parent or
24 stepparent of the applicant's child may not be considered for the
25 purposes of determining the minor parent applicant's eligibility for
26 assistance.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 43.216
28 RCW to read as follows:

29 A parent who is under eighteen years of age and is attending high
30 school or is working toward completing a general educational
31 development certificate is eligible to receive working connections
32 child care. When determining consumer eligibility and copayment under
33 this section, the department:

34 (1) Must treat the minor parent as his or her own household when
35 determining household income;

36 (2) Must, within existing resources, authorize full-day
37 subsidized child care during the school year in cases where:

1 (a) The consumer is participating in one hundred ten hours of
2 approved activities per month;

3 (b) The household income of the consumer does not exceed eighty-
4 five percent of the state median income at the time of application;
5 and

6 (c) The consumer meets all other program eligibility
7 requirements;

8 (3) Must designate children of minor parents as a vulnerable
9 population in need of protective services pursuant to 45 C.F.R. Sec.
10 98.20 as it existed on January 1, 2019;

11 (4) May not consider the availability of the other biological
12 parent when authorizing care; and

13 (5) May not require a copayment that is greater than the minimum
14 copayment established by the department for the working connections
15 child care program in rule.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300
17 RCW to read as follows:

18 (1) Subject to the availability of funds appropriated for this
19 specific purpose, the office of the superintendent of public
20 instruction shall establish a competitive application process to
21 provide grants to school districts for the establishment of a
22 graduation, reality, and dual-role skills program.

23 (2) Grants awarded under this section must be used for: Start-up
24 costs associated with opening a child care center located on school
25 premises; graduation, reality, and dual-role skills program staff
26 salaries; support group facilitation; mentoring; or other expenses
27 associated with the operation of a graduation, reality, and dual-role
28 skills program.

29 (3) No later than December 1, 2030, the Washington state
30 institute for public policy must evaluate the effectiveness of the
31 grants awarded under this section. The evaluation must include a
32 cost-benefit analysis and an assessment of student outcomes for
33 graduation, reality, and dual-role skills program participants at
34 five years after participation. Outcomes evaluated must include data
35 related to participants' educational attainment, employment, and
36 participation in public assistance programs. The institute shall
37 report these outcomes to the governor and appropriate committees of
38 the legislature no later than December 1, 2030.

39 (4) This section expires December 30, 2030.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.160
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 (1) By July 1, 2020, at the request of an eligible student, a
4 school district:

5 (a) May allow the student to transport his or her infant on a
6 school bus or other student transportation vehicle provided by the
7 district. The infant must be transported in a rear-facing child
8 restraint system as defined in the federal motor vehicle safety
9 standards in 49 C.F.R. Sec. 571.213;

10 (b) Must, in cases where a district denies a student's request to
11 transport his or her infant by school bus, authorize other
12 arrangements for individual transportation in accordance with RCW
13 28A.160.030.

14 (2) For the purposes of this section, "eligible student" has the
15 same meaning as in RCW 28A.160.160.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 2 and 3 of this act take effect
17 May 1, 2020.

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