
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6255

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education (originally sponsored by Senators Wilson, C., Randall, Darneille, Lovelett, Das, Hasegawa, Kuderer, Nguyen, Van De Wege, and Hunt; by request of Office of Financial Management)

READ FIRST TIME 02/03/20.

1 AN ACT Relating to supporting access to child care for parents
2 who are attending high school or working toward completion of a high
3 school equivalency certificate; amending RCW 28A.160.010; adding a
4 new section to chapter 43.216 RCW; adding a new section to chapter
5 28A.160 RCW; and adding a new section to chapter 28A.640 RCW.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.216
8 RCW to read as follows:

9 (1)(a) A parent who is attending high school is eligible to
10 receive working connections child care.

11 (b) A parent age twenty-one years or younger who is working
12 toward completing a high school equivalency certificate is eligible
13 to receive working connections child care.

14 (2) When determining consumer eligibility and copayment under
15 this section, the department:

16 (a) Must, within existing resources, authorize full-day
17 subsidized child care during the school year in cases where:

18 (i) The parent is participating in one hundred ten hours of
19 approved activities per month;

1 (ii) The household income of the parent does not exceed eighty-
2 five percent of the state median income at the time of application;
3 and

4 (iii) The parent meets all other program eligibility
5 requirements;

6 (b) May not consider the availability of the other biological
7 parent when authorizing care; and

8 (c) May not require a copayment.

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

11 (1) By July 1, 2021, at the request of an eligible student, a
12 school district:

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

18 (b) Must, in cases where a district denies a student's request to
19 transport his or her infant by school bus, authorize other
20 arrangements for individual transportation in accordance with RCW
21 28A.160.030.

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

24 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.160.010 and 1990 c 33 s 132 are each amended to
25 read as follows:

26 The operation of each local school district's student
27 transportation program is declared to be the responsibility of the
28 respective board of directors, and each board of directors shall
29 determine such matters as which individual students shall be
30 transported and what routes shall be most efficiently utilized except
31 as provided in section 2 of this act. State moneys allocated to local
32 districts for student transportation shall be spent only for student
33 transportation activities, but need not be spent by the local
34 district in the same manner as calculated and allocated by the state.

35 A school district is authorized to provide for the transportation
36 of students enrolled in the school or schools of the district both in
37 the case of students who reside within the boundaries of the district
38 and of students who reside outside the boundaries of the district.

1 When children are transported from one school district to another
2 the board of directors of the respective districts may enter into a
3 written contract providing for a division of the cost of such
4 transportation between the districts.

5 School districts may use school buses and drivers hired by the
6 district or commercial chartered bus service for the transportation
7 of school children and the school employees necessary for their
8 supervision to and from any school activities within or without the
9 school district during or after school hours and whether or not a
10 required school activity, so long as the school board has officially
11 designated it as a school activity. For any extra-curricular uses,
12 the school board shall charge an amount sufficient to reimburse the
13 district for its cost.

14 In addition to the right to contract for the use of buses
15 provided in RCW 28A.160.080 and 28A.160.090, any school district may
16 contract to furnish the use of school buses of that district to other
17 users who are engaged in conducting an educational or recreational
18 program supported wholly or in part by tax funds or programs for
19 elderly persons at times when those buses are not needed by that
20 district and under such terms as will fully reimburse such school
21 district for all costs related or incident thereto: PROVIDED,
22 HOWEVER, That no such use of school district buses shall be permitted
23 except where other public or private transportation certificated or
24 licensed by the Washington utilities and transportation commission is
25 not reasonably available to the user: PROVIDED FURTHER, That no user
26 shall be required to accept any charter bus for services which the
27 user believes might place the health or safety of the children or
28 elderly persons in jeopardy.

29 Whenever any persons are transported by the school district in
30 its own motor vehicles and by its own employees, the board may
31 provide insurance to protect the district against loss, whether by
32 reason of theft, fire or property damage to the motor vehicle or by
33 reason of liability of the district to persons from the operation of
34 such motor vehicle.

35 The board may provide insurance by contract purchase for payment
36 of hospital and medical expenses for the benefit of persons injured
37 while they are on, getting on, or getting off any vehicles enumerated
38 herein without respect to any fault or liability on the part of the
39 school district or operator. This insurance may be provided without

1 cost to the persons notwithstanding the provisions of RCW
2 28A.400.350.

3 If the transportation of children or elderly persons is arranged
4 for by contract of the district with some person, the board may
5 require such contractor to procure such insurance as the board deems
6 advisable.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.640
8 RCW to read as follows:

9 (1) The Washington state school directors' association, in
10 collaboration with the office of the superintendent of public
11 instruction, must develop a model policy and procedure that supports
12 the educational success of pregnant students and parenting students.
13 The model policy and procedure must be posted on the Washington state
14 school directors' association's web site by September 1, 2020. At a
15 minimum, the model policy and procedure must:

16 (a) Incorporate the office of the superintendent of public
17 instruction's rules and guidelines developed under RCW 28A.640.020 to
18 eliminate discrimination in Washington public schools on the basis of
19 sex;

20 (b) Identify procedures to anticipate and provide for student
21 absences due to pregnancy or childbirth and allow students to return
22 to school after pregnancy and, if applicable, participate in
23 extracurricular activities, athletic programs, and educational
24 opportunities;

25 (c) Identify voluntary and alternative methods to keep pregnant
26 students and parenting students in school if needed such as allowing
27 coursework to be accessed at home or accommodating tutoring visits,
28 online courses, or a similar supplement to classroom attendance;

29 (d) Address how the district will provide students with a
30 convenient, sanitary, safe, and private location, other than a
31 restroom, allowing privacy for breastfeeding or expressing breast
32 milk;

33 (e) Establish a procedure for schools that do not have a child
34 care provider located on school premises to assist parenting students
35 by identifying nearby early care and education programs; and

36 (f) Address transportation for parenting students who are
37 transporting an infant, as described in section 2 of this act.

38 (2) By the beginning of the 2021-22 school year, each school
39 district is encouraged to adopt or amend if necessary a policy and

1 procedure that supports the educational success of pregnant students
2 and parenting students that incorporates the model policy and
3 procedure described in subsection (1) of this section.

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