
HOUSE BILL 1999

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2015 Regular Session

By Representatives Carlyle, Kagi, Lytton, Walsh, Sawyer, Pettigrew, Ortiz-Self, Dent, Parker, Caldier, Goodman, and Jinkins

Read first time 02/05/15. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & Human Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to coordinating services and programs for foster
2 youth in order to improve educational outcomes; amending RCW
3 28B.117.060; adding new sections to chapter 28A.300 RCW; adding a new
4 section to chapter 74.13 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 28B.77
5 RCW; creating a new section; recodifying RCW 28B.117.060; and
6 repealing RCW 74.13.105.

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

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The Washington state legislature has long
9 acknowledged that youth impacted by the foster care system experience
10 among the worst high school graduation and postsecondary completion
11 outcomes compared to any other population of youth. Over the last
12 decade, legislative leadership has sparked innovation and development
13 of an array of services to improve educational outcomes. The
14 legislature intends to powerfully leverage that past experience to
15 establish a set of comprehensive strategies that are evidence-based,
16 more coordinated, intensive, and intentional in order to proactively
17 support youth to complete high school and successfully implement
18 their own plans for their future.

19 The goals of this effort are threefold:

20 (1) To make Washington number one in the nation for foster care
21 graduation rates;

1 (2) To make Washington number one in the nation for foster care
2 enrollment in postsecondary education; and

3 (3) To make Washington number one in the nation for foster care
4 postsecondary completion.

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

7 (1) To the extent funds are appropriated for this purpose, the
8 office of the superintendent of public instruction must contract with
9 at least one nongovernmental entity to administer a program of
10 education coordination for youth, kindergarten through twelfth grade,
11 who are dependent pursuant to chapter 13.34 RCW. The selected
12 nongovernmental entity or entities must engage in a public-private
13 partnership with the office of the superintendent of public
14 instruction and are responsible for raising a portion of the funds
15 needed for service delivery, administration, and evaluation.

16 (2) The nongovernmental entity or entities selected by the office
17 of the superintendent of public instruction must have demonstrated
18 success in working with foster care youth and assisting foster care
19 youth in receiving appropriate educational services, including
20 enrollment, accessing school-based services, reducing out-of-school
21 discipline interventions, and attaining high school graduation. The
22 contract must be outcome driven with a stated goal of reducing
23 educational barriers to youth success.

24 (3) The selected nongovernmental entity or entities must provide
25 services to support individual youth upon a referral by a social
26 worker with the department of social and health services, school
27 staff, or a nongovernmental agency. The selected nongovernmental
28 entity or entities must be colocated in the offices of the department
29 of social and health services to provide timely consultation and in-
30 service training. These entities must have access to all paper and
31 electronic education records and case information pertinent to the
32 educational planning and services of youth referred and are subject
33 to RCW 13.50.010 and 13.50.100.

34 (4) The selected nongovernmental entity or entities must report
35 outcomes semiannually to the office of the superintendent of public
36 instruction and the department of social and health services.

37 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300
38 RCW to read as follows:

1 (1) To the extent funds are appropriated for this purpose, the
2 office of the superintendent of public instruction must contract with
3 at least one nongovernmental entity to improve the educational
4 outcomes of students at two sites by providing individualized
5 education services and monitoring and supporting dependent youths'
6 completion of educational milestones, remediation needs, and special
7 education needs. The selected nongovernmental entity must engage in a
8 public-private partnership with the office of the superintendent of
9 public instruction and is responsible for raising a portion of the
10 funds needed for service delivery, administration, and evaluation.

11 (2) One of the sites shall be the site previously selected by the
12 department of social and health services pursuant to the 2013-2015
13 omnibus appropriations act, section 202(10), chapter 4, Laws of 2013
14 2nd sp. sess. The office of the superintendent of public instruction
15 and the nongovernmental entity or entities at the original site shall
16 consult with the department of social and health services and then
17 collaboratively select the second site. This site should be a school
18 district or group of school districts with a significant number of
19 students who are dependent pursuant to chapter 13.34 RCW. The second
20 site established under this subsection must be selected by September
21 1, 2015.

22 (3) The purpose of the programs at both sites is to improve the
23 educational outcomes of students who are dependent pursuant to
24 chapter 13.34 RCW by providing individualized education services and
25 supporting dependent youths' completion of educational milestones,
26 remediation needs, and special education needs.

27 (4) The entity or entities at these sites must facilitate the
28 educational progress, high school completion, and postsecondary plan
29 initiation of eligible youth. The contract with the entity or
30 entities must be outcome driven with a stated goal of improving the
31 graduation rates and postsecondary plan initiation of foster youth by
32 two percent per year over five school year periods. The baseline for
33 measurement for the existing site was established in the 2013-14
34 school year, and this baseline remains applicable through the 2018-19
35 school year. Any new site must establish its baseline at the end of
36 the first year of service provision, and this baseline must remain
37 applicable for the next five school year periods.

38 (5) Services provided by the nongovernmental entity or entities
39 must include:

1 (a) Advocacy for foster youth to eliminate barriers to
2 educational access and success;

3 (b) Consultation with schools and the department of social and
4 health services' case workers to develop educational plans for and
5 with participating youth;

6 (c) Monitoring education progress and providing interventions to
7 improve attendance, behavior, and course performance of participating
8 youth;

9 (d) Facilitating age-specific developmental and logistical tasks
10 to be accomplished for high school and postsecondary success;

11 (e) Facilitating the participation of youth with school and local
12 resources that may assist in educational access and success; and

13 (f) Coordinating youth, caregivers, schools, and social workers
14 to advocate to support youth progress in the educational system.

15 (6) The contracted nongovernmental entity or entities must report
16 site outcomes to the office of the superintendent of public
17 instruction and the department of social and health services
18 semiannually.

19 (7) The department of social and health services children's
20 administration must proactively refer all eligible youth, within the
21 site area, to the selected nongovernmental entity for educational
22 services. Youth eligible for referral are dependent pursuant to
23 chapter 13.34 RCW, are not currently served by services under RCW
24 28B.117.060 (as recodified by this act), are age thirteen through
25 twenty-one years of age, and remain eligible for continuing service
26 following fulfillment of the permanent plan and through initiation of
27 a postsecondary plan. After high school completion, services are
28 concluded within a time period specified in the contract to pursue
29 engagement of continuing postsecondary support services provided by
30 local schools, higher education, community programs, or the passport
31 to college promise program.

32 (8) The selected nongovernmental entity or entities may be
33 colocated in the offices of the department of social and health
34 services to provide timely consultation. These entities must be
35 provided access to all paper and electronic education records and
36 case information pertinent to the educational planning and services
37 of youth referred and are subject to RCW 13.50.010 and 13.50.100.

38 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28B.117.060 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 11 s 224 are each
39 amended to read as follows:

1 (1) To the extent funds are appropriated for this purpose, (~~the~~
2 ~~department of social and health services~~) council, with input from
3 the (~~state board for community and technical colleges, the office,~~
4 ~~and institutions of higher education~~) office of the superintendent
5 of public instruction and the department of social and health
6 services, shall contract with at least one nongovernmental entity
7 (~~through a request for proposals process~~) to develop, implement,
8 and administer a program of supplemental educational transition
9 planning for youth in foster care in Washington state.

10 (2) The nongovernmental entity or entities chosen by the
11 (~~department~~) council shall have demonstrated success in working
12 with foster care youth and assisting foster care youth in
13 successfully making the transition from (~~foster care to independent~~
14 ~~adulthood~~) high school to a postsecondary plan, including
15 postsecondary enrollment, career, or service.

16 (3) The selected nongovernmental entity or entities shall provide
17 supplemental educational transition planning to foster care youth in
18 Washington state (~~beginning at age fourteen and then at least every~~
19 ~~six months thereafter~~). Youth eligible for referral are not
20 currently served by programs under section 3 of this act, dependent
21 pursuant to chapter 13.34 RCW, age thirteen through twenty-one, and
22 remain eligible for continuing service following fulfillment of the
23 permanent plan and through initiation of a postsecondary plan. After
24 high school completion, services are concluded within a time period
25 specified in the contract to pursue engagement of continuing
26 postsecondary support services provided by local schools, higher
27 education, community programs, or the passport to college promise
28 program. The nongovernmental entity or entities must facilitate the
29 educational progress, graduation, and postsecondary plan initiation
30 of eligible youth. The contract must be outcome driven with a stated
31 goal of improving the graduation rates and postsecondary plan
32 initiation of eligible youth by two percent per year over five school
33 year periods starting with the 2015-16 school year and ending with
34 the 2020-21 school year. With each new contract, a baseline must be
35 established at the end of the first year of service provision.

36 (4) The supplemental transition planning shall include:

37 (a) (~~Comprehensive information regarding postsecondary~~
38 ~~educational opportunities including, but not limited to, sources of~~
39 ~~financial aid, institutional characteristics and record of support~~

1 ~~for former foster care youth, transportation, housing, and other~~
2 ~~logistical considerations;~~

3 ~~(b) How and when to apply to postsecondary educational programs;~~

4 ~~(c) What precollege tests, if any, the particular foster care~~
5 ~~youth should take based on his or her postsecondary plans and when to~~
6 ~~take the tests;~~

7 ~~(d) What courses to take to prepare the particular foster care~~
8 ~~youth to succeed at his or her postsecondary plans;~~

9 ~~(e) Social, community, educational, logistical, and other issues~~
10 ~~that frequently impact college students and their success rates; and~~

11 ~~(f) Which web sites, nongovernmental entities, public agencies,~~
12 ~~and other foster care youth support providers specialize in which~~
13 ~~services)) Consultation with schools and the department of social and~~
14 ~~health services' case workers to develop educational plans for and~~
15 ~~with participating youth;~~

16 ~~(b) Age-specific developmental and logistical tasks to be~~
17 ~~accomplished for high school and postsecondary success;~~

18 ~~(c) Facilitating youth participation with appropriate school and~~
19 ~~local resources that may assist in educational access and success;~~
20 ~~and~~

21 ~~(d) Coordinating youth, caregivers, schools, and social workers~~
22 ~~to support youth progress in the educational system.~~

23 ~~((+4)) (5) The selected nongovernmental entity or entities~~
24 ~~((shall work directly with the school counselors at the foster care~~
25 ~~youths' high schools to ensure that a consistent and complete~~
26 ~~transition plan has been prepared for each foster care youth who~~
27 ~~emancipates out of the foster care system in Washington state)) may~~
28 ~~be colocated in the offices of the department of social and health~~
29 ~~services to provide timely consultation. These entities must have~~
30 ~~access to all paper and electronic education records and case~~
31 ~~information pertinent to the educational planning and services of~~
32 ~~youth referred and are subject to RCW 13.50.010 and 13.50.100.~~

33 ~~(6) The contracted nongovernmental entity or entities must report~~
34 ~~outcomes to the council and the department of social and health~~
35 ~~services semiannually.~~

36 NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. A new section is added to chapter 74.13
37 RCW to read as follows:

38 (1) In order to proactively support foster youth to complete high
39 school, enroll and complete postsecondary education, and successfully

1 implement their own plans for their futures, the department, the
2 student achievement council, and the office of the superintendent of
3 public instruction shall enter into, or revise existing, memoranda of
4 understanding that:

5 (a) Facilitate student referral, data and information exchange,
6 agency roles and responsibilities, and cooperation and collaboration
7 among state agencies and nongovernmental entities; and

8 (b) Effectuate the transfer of responsibilities from the
9 department of social and health services to the office of the
10 superintendent of public instruction with respect to the programs in
11 sections 2 and 3 of this act, and from the department of social and
12 health services to the student achievement council with respect to
13 the program in RCW 28B.117.060 (as recodified by this act) in a
14 smooth, expedient, and coordinated fashion.

15 (2) By November 1, 2016, and biannually thereafter, the
16 department, the student achievement council, and the office of the
17 superintendent of public instruction, in consultation with the
18 nongovernmental entities engaged in public-private partnerships shall
19 submit a joint report to the governor and the appropriate education
20 and human services committees of the legislature regarding each of
21 these programs, individually, as well as the collective progress the
22 state has made toward the following goals:

23 (a) To make Washington number one in the nation for foster care
24 graduation rates;

25 (b) To make Washington number one in the nation for foster care
26 enrollment in postsecondary education; and

27 (c) To make Washington number one in the nation for foster care
28 postsecondary completion.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** RCW 74.13.105 (Program of education
30 coordination for dependent youth—Public-private partnership—
31 Selection—Report) and 2012 c 163 s 6 are each repealed.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** RCW 28B.117.060 is recodified as a section
33 in chapter 28B.77 RCW.

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