

2SHB 1716 - S COMM AMD

By Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the educational  
4 achievement of children in foster care continues to be significantly  
5 lower than students in the general population. Children in foster care  
6 are more likely to change schools frequently, be retained and repeat  
7 a grade, perform at lower levels on standardized tests, and graduate at  
8 a significantly lower rate than their peers. An important strategy for  
9 supporting the educational progress of children in foster care is to  
10 facilitate continuity of school placement when children are removed  
11 from their homes or when subsequent changes in placement are necessary.  
12 The legislature also finds that the primary barriers to continuity of  
13 school placement are inadequate numbers of local foster homes and a  
14 lack of funding to provide transportation when local placements are not  
15 available. Despite some efforts to support continuity of school  
16 placement for children in foster care, limited progress has been made.

17 The legislature further finds that an additional factor in  
18 supporting improved educational outcomes for children in foster care is  
19 timely data collection and analysis. Aggregate reporting about the  
20 educational attainment of children in foster care is crucial to  
21 understanding and assessing the impact of policy and practice changes  
22 on educational outcomes. The legislature, therefore, intends to  
23 promote the development, implementation, and evaluation of innovative  
24 and practical strategies for maintaining continuity of school placement  
25 for children in foster care, and to facilitate data sharing between the  
26 office of the superintendent of public instruction and the children's  
27 administration within the department of social and health services.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) Subject to availability of funding  
29 amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the oversight committee

1 established in RCW 74.13.570, by August 1, 2007, shall: (a) Select  
2 stakeholders to assist the committee with facilitating innovation and  
3 effectiveness in the recruitment and retention of foster parents; (b)  
4 identify promising and effective strategies for school enrollment  
5 stabilization; (c) select strategies for implementation and evaluation  
6 in the ten school districts with the highest rate of removal of school-  
7 age children from their homes under chapter 13.34 RCW; and (d) develop  
8 a request for qualification to community agencies and the division of  
9 children and family services within the department of social and health  
10 services for grant funding to implement school enrollment stabilization  
11 strategies. Such strategies may include practice pilot programs  
12 designed to affect a geographical cohort of children as well as  
13 programs using child-specific strategies to maintain school enrollment  
14 stability, including but not limited to strategies relating to: (i)  
15 Foster parent recruitment, retention, and support; (ii) transportation  
16 within and between school districts; (iii) incentives for schools,  
17 foster parents, and regional offices of the division of children and  
18 family services to support enrollment stability; (iv) funding of  
19 individual safety and services plan-driven strategies for individual  
20 children; and (v) public relations and communications campaigns  
21 regarding the needs of children in foster care and the opportunities in  
22 foster parenting.

23 (2) Based on the recommendations of the oversight committee, the  
24 department of social and health services shall select grant recipients  
25 and begin disbursing grant funds not later than October 31, 2007. The  
26 committee shall, to the extent practicable, provide technical support  
27 and assistance to the grant recipients with implementation and data  
28 collection.

29 (3) By July 31, 2009, the department of social and health services  
30 shall inform the appropriate committees of the legislature about the  
31 strategies and practices implemented, and shall make additional policy  
32 recommendations based on evaluations of the same.

33 (4) This section expires September 1, 2009.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.150  
35 RCW to read as follows:

36 Subject to availability of funding amounts for this specific  
37 purpose, not later than January 1, 2008, the office of the

1 superintendent of public instruction shall facilitate interagency  
2 agreements consistent with protocols developed under RCW 74.13.560 and  
3 execute data-sharing agreements with and between local school districts  
4 and the children's administration within the department of social and  
5 health services for the purposes of: (1) Promoting school enrollment  
6 continuity of children in foster care; and (2) evaluating and analyzing  
7 the impact of changes to state, school district, and department  
8 policies and practices on the educational outcomes of children in  
9 foster care. Data-sharing agreements required under this section shall  
10 include state and school district-level data as well as data about  
11 individual children in foster care. In executing the data-sharing  
12 agreements, the children's administration shall give priority to those  
13 school districts most impacted by ongoing enrollment of students in  
14 foster care, foster care removals, and placements. This section  
15 permits a school, a school district, or the office of the  
16 superintendent of public instruction to release personally identifiable  
17 student information only as allowed under the federal family  
18 educational rights and privacy act.

19 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28A.150.510 and 2000 c 88 s 1 are each amended to read  
20 as follows:

21 In order to effectively serve students who are under the  
22 jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system as dependent pursuant to  
23 chapter 13.34 RCW, education records shall be (~~released upon request~~  
24 ~~to~~) transmitted to the department of social and health services within  
25 two school days after receiving the request from the department (~~of~~  
26 ~~social and health services~~) provided that the department of social and  
27 health services certifies that it will not disclose to any other party  
28 the education records without prior written consent of the parent or  
29 student unless authorized to disclose the records under state law. The  
30 department of social and health services is authorized to disclose  
31 education records it obtains pursuant to this section to a foster  
32 parent, guardian, or other entity authorized by the department of  
33 social and health services to provide residential care to the student.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 43.20A RCW  
35 to read as follows:

36 The children's administration within the department of social and

1 health services shall request funding and/or approval necessary to  
2 expedite the development and implementation of an interface between the  
3 statewide automated child welfare information system and the  
4 information system within the office of the superintendent of public  
5 instruction in order to facilitate ongoing effective data sharing  
6 between the two agencies regarding the educational achievement of  
7 children in foster care. This section permits the office of the  
8 superintendent of public instruction to release personally identifiable  
9 student information only as allowed under the federal family  
10 educational rights and privacy act.

11 **Sec. 6.** RCW 74.13.560 and 2003 c 112 s 3 are each amended to read  
12 as follows:

13 The administrative regions of the department shall develop  
14 protocols with the respective school districts in their regions,  
15 prioritizing those districts that have the highest number of children  
16 in foster care and/or high numbers of foster care removals and  
17 placements, specifying specific strategies for communication,  
18 coordination, and collaboration regarding the status and progress of  
19 foster children placed in the region, in order to maximize the  
20 educational continuity and achievement for foster children. The  
21 protocols shall include methods to assure effective sharing of  
22 information consistent with RCW 28A.225.330."

**2SHB 1716** - S COMM AMD

By Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education

23 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "care;" strike the remainder  
24 of the title and insert "amending RCW 28A.150.510 and 74.13.560; adding  
25 a new section to chapter 28A.150 RCW; adding a new section to chapter  
26 43.20A RCW; creating new sections; and providing an expiration date."

--- END ---