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HOUSE BILL 2373

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State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2014 Regular Session

**By** Representatives Parker, Lytton, Stonier, Dahlquist, Sequist, Zeiger, Santos, Farrell, Pettigrew, Kagi, Bergquist, Walsh, Pollet, Fey, Ryu, Roberts, Cody, Gregerson, Orwall, Haler, Hunt, Tarleton, Freeman, Walkinshaw, Muri, and Habib

Read first time 01/16/14. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to improving educational outcomes for homeless  
2 students; amending RCW 28A.300.540 and 28A.175.010; adding a new  
3 section to chapter 28A.320 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that since the 2005-06  
6 school year, the number of homeless students identified in the K-12  
7 public school system has been increasing. The legislature further  
8 finds that there are additional homeless students who are not  
9 identified by schools. The legislature intends to improve educational  
10 outcomes for homeless children by strengthening the ability of school  
11 districts to identify homeless students, establishing data reporting  
12 requirements, and distributing best practices and information regarding  
13 services and support for homeless students.

14 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.300.540 and 2009 c 515 s 12 are each amended to  
15 read as follows:

16 (1) By December 31, 2010, the office of the superintendent of  
17 public instruction shall establish a uniform process designed to track  
18 the additional expenditures for transporting homeless students,

1 including expenditures required under the McKinney Vento act,  
2 reauthorized as Title X, Part C, of the no child left behind act, P.L.  
3 107-110, in January 2002. Once established, the superintendent shall  
4 adopt the necessary administrative rules to direct each school district  
5 to adopt and use the uniform process and track these expenditures. The  
6 superintendent shall ~~((provide information annually to the agency  
7 council on coordinated transportation, created in chapter 47.06B RCW,  
8 on))~~ post on the superintendent's web site total expenditures related  
9 to the transportation of homeless students.

10 (2)(a) By December 1, 2014, and every even-numbered year  
11 thereafter, the office of the superintendent of public instruction  
12 shall report to the governor and the legislature the following data for  
13 homeless students:

14 (i) The number of homeless students enrolled in public schools;

15 (ii) The number of students participating in the learning  
16 assistance program under chapter 28A.165 RCW, the highly capable  
17 program under chapter 28A.185 RCW, and the running start program under  
18 chapter 28A.600 RCW; and

19 (iii) The academic performance and educational outcomes of homeless  
20 students, including but not limited to the following performance and  
21 educational outcomes:

22 (A) Student scores on the statewide administered academic  
23 assessments;

24 (B) English language proficiency;

25 (C) Dropout rates;

26 (D) Four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate;

27 (E) Five-year adjusted cohort graduation rate;

28 (F) Absenteeism rates;

29 (G) Truancy rates, if available; and

30 (H) Suspension and expulsion data.

31 (b) The data reported under this subsection (2) must include state  
32 and district-level information and must be disaggregated by at least  
33 the following subgroups of students: White, Black, Hispanic, American  
34 Indian/Alaskan Native, Asian, Pacific Islander/Hawaiian Native, low  
35 income, transitional bilingual, migrant, special education, and gender.

36 (3) By July 1, 2014, the office of the superintendent of public  
37 instruction in collaboration with experts from community organizations  
38 on homelessness and homeless education policy, shall develop or acquire

1 a short video that provides information on how to identify signs that  
2 indicate a student may be homeless, how to provide services and support  
3 to homeless students, and why this identification and support is  
4 critical to student success. The video must be posted on the  
5 superintendent of public instruction's web site.

6 (4) By July 1, 2014, the office of the superintendent of public  
7 instruction shall adopt and distribute to each school district, best  
8 practices for choosing and training school district-designated homeless  
9 student liaisons.

10 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 28A.320  
11 RCW to read as follows:

12 (1) Each school district must strongly encourage:

13 (a) All school staff to annually review the video posted on the  
14 office of the superintendent of public instruction's web site on how to  
15 identify signs that indicate a student may be homeless, how to provide  
16 services and support to homeless students, and why this identification  
17 and support is critical to student success to ensure that homeless  
18 students are appropriately identified and supported; and

19 (b) Every district-designated homeless student liaison to attend  
20 trainings provided by the state to ensure that homeless children and  
21 youth are identified and served.

22 (2) Each school district shall provide a parent brochure to all  
23 students at the beginning of the school year or at enrollment of the  
24 student that provides information about services and support for  
25 homeless students. School districts may use the parent brochure that  
26 is posted on the web site of the office of the superintendent of public  
27 instruction.

28 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28A.175.010 and 2010 c 243 s 5 are each amended to  
29 read as follows:

30 Each school district shall account for the educational progress of  
31 each of its students. To achieve this, school districts shall be  
32 required to report annually to the superintendent of public  
33 instruction:

34 (1) For students enrolled in each of a school district's high  
35 school programs:

36 (a) The number of students who graduate in fewer than four years;

1 (b) The number of students who graduate in four years;

2 (c) The number of students who remain in school for more than four  
3 years but who eventually graduate and the number of students who remain  
4 in school for more than four years but do not graduate;

5 (d) The number of students who transfer to other schools;

6 (e) The number of students in the ninth through twelfth grade who  
7 drop out of school over a four-year period; and

8 (f) The number of students whose status is unknown.

9 (2) Dropout rates of students in each of the grades seven through  
10 twelve.

11 (3) Dropout rates for student populations in each of the grades  
12 seven through twelve by:

13 (a) Ethnicity;

14 (b) Gender;

15 (c) Socioeconomic status; (~~and~~)

16 (d) Disability status; and

17 (e) Homeless status.

18 (4) The causes or reasons, or both, attributed to students for  
19 having dropped out of school in grades seven through twelve.

20 (5) The superintendent of public instruction shall adopt rules  
21 under chapter 34.05 RCW to assure uniformity in the information  
22 districts are required to report under subsections (1) through (4) of  
23 this section. In developing rules, the superintendent of public  
24 instruction shall consult with school districts, including  
25 administrative and counseling personnel, with regard to the methods  
26 through which information is to be collected and reported.

27 (6) In reporting on the causes or reasons, or both, attributed to  
28 students for having dropped out of school, school building officials  
29 shall, to the extent reasonably practical, obtain such information  
30 directly from students. In lieu of obtaining such information directly  
31 from students, building principals and counselors shall identify the  
32 causes or reasons, or both, based on their professional judgment.

33 (7) The superintendent of public instruction shall report annually  
34 to the legislature the information collected under subsections (1)  
35 through (4) of this section.

36 (8) The Washington state institute for public policy shall  
37 calculate an annual estimate of the savings resulting from any change  
38 compared to the prior school year in the extended graduation rate. The

1 superintendent shall include the estimate from the institute in an  
2 appendix of the report required under subsection (7) of this section,  
3 beginning with the 2010 report.

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