

SSB 5324 - H COMM AMD
By Committee on Appropriations

ADOPTED 04/12/2019

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

3 **"Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.300.542 and 2016 c 157 s 2 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

5 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
6 specific purpose, the office of the superintendent of public
7 instruction shall create a competitive grant process to evaluate and
8 award state-funded grants to school districts to increase
9 identification of ~~((homeless))~~ students experiencing homelessness and
10 the capacity of the districts to provide support ~~((, which may include
11 education liaisons, for homeless students))~~ for students experiencing
12 homelessness. Funds may be used in a manner that is complementary to
13 federal McKinney-Vento funds and consistent with allowable uses as
14 determined by the office of the superintendent of public instruction.
15 The process must complement any similar federal grant program or
16 programs in order to minimize agency overhead and administrative
17 costs for the superintendent of public instruction and school
18 districts. School districts may access both federal and state funding
19 to identify and support ~~((homeless))~~ students experiencing
20 homelessness.

21 (2) Award criteria for the state grants must be based on the
22 demonstrated need of the school district and may consider the number
23 or overall percentage, or both, of homeless children and youths
24 enrolled in preschool, elementary, and secondary schools in the
25 school district, and the ability of the local school district to meet
26 these needs. Award criteria for these must also be based on the
27 quality of the applications submitted. ~~((Preference))~~ Selected
28 grantees must reflect geographic diversity across the state. Greater
29 weight must be given to districts that demonstrate a commitment to:

30 (a) Partnering with local housing and community-based
31 organizations with experience in serving the needs of students
32 experiencing homelessness or students of color;

1 (b) Serving the needs of unaccompanied youth; and
2 (c) Implementing evidence-informed strategies to address the
3 opportunity gap and other systemic inequities that negatively impact
4 students experiencing homelessness and students of color. Specific
5 strategies may include, but are not limited to:

6 (i) Enhancing the cultural responsiveness of current and future
7 staff;

8 (ii) Ensuring all staff, faculty, and school employees are
9 actively trained in trauma-informed care;

10 (iii) Providing inclusive programming by intentionally seeking
11 and utilizing input from the population being served;

12 (iv) Using a multidisciplinary approach when serving students
13 experiencing homelessness and their families;

14 (v) Intentionally seeking and utilizing input from the families
15 and students experiencing homelessness about how district policies,
16 services, and practices can be improved; and

17 (vi) Identifying data elements and systems needed to monitor
18 progress in eliminating disparities in academic outcomes for students
19 experiencing homelessness with their housed peers.

20 (3) At the end of each academic year, districts receiving grants
21 ((must measure during the academic year how often each student
22 physically moves, what services families or unaccompanied youth could
23 access, and whether or not a family or unaccompanied youth received
24 stable housing by the end of the school year)) shall monitor and
25 report on the academic outcomes for students served by the grants.
26 The academic outcomes are those recommended by the office of the
27 superintendent of public instruction. The office of the
28 superintendent of public instruction shall review the reports
29 submitted by the districts and assist school districts in using these
30 data to identify gaps and needs, and develop sustainable strategies
31 to improve academic outcomes for students experiencing homelessness.

32 (4) ((Homeless)) Students experiencing homelessness are defined
33 as students without a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime
34 residence ((as set forth)) in accordance with the definition of
35 homeless children and youths in the federal McKinney-Vento homeless
36 ((education)) assistance act ((P.L. 100-77; 101 Stat. 482)), 42
37 U.S.C. Sec. 11431 through 11435.

38 (5) School districts may not use funds allocated under this
39 section to supplant existing federal, state, or local resources for

1 (~~homeless student~~) supports for students experiencing homelessness,
2 which may include education liaisons.

3 (6) Grants awarded to districts under this section may be for two
4 years.

5 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.185C.340 and 2016 c 157 s 3 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1) Subject to funds appropriated for this specific purpose, the
8 department (~~(, in consultation with the office of the superintendent~~
9 ~~of public instruction,)~~) shall administer a grant program that links
10 (~~homeless~~) students experiencing homelessness and their families
11 with stable housing located in the (~~homeless~~) student's school
12 district. The goals of the program (~~is~~) are to:

13 (a) Provide educational stability for (~~homeless~~) students
14 experiencing homelessness by promoting housing stability; and

15 (b) Encourage the development of collaborative strategies between
16 housing and education partners.

17 (2) To ensure that innovative strategies between housing and
18 education partners are developed and implemented, the department may
19 contract and consult with a designated vendor to provide technical
20 assistance and program evaluation, and assist with making grant
21 awards. If the department contracts with a vendor, the vendor must be
22 selected by the director and:

23 (a) Be a nonprofit vendor;

24 (b) Be located in Washington state; and

25 (c) Have a demonstrated record of working toward the housing and
26 educational stability of students and families experiencing
27 homelessness.

28 (3) In implementing the program, the department, or the
29 department in partnership with its designated vendor, shall consult
30 with the office of the superintendent of public instruction.

31 (4) The department, (~~working with the office of the~~
32 ~~superintendent of public instruction)~~) or the designated vendor in
33 consultation with the department, shall develop a competitive grant
34 process to make grant awards (~~of no more than one hundred thousand~~
35 ~~dollars per school, not to exceed five hundred thousand dollars per~~
36 ~~school district,~~) to (~~school districts partnered with~~) eligible
37 organizations on implementation of the proposal. For the purposes of
38 this subsection, "eligible organization" means any local government,
39 local housing authority, regional support network established under

1 chapter 71.24 RCW, behavioral health organization, nonprofit
2 community or neighborhood-based organization, federally recognized
3 Indian tribe in the state of Washington, or regional or statewide
4 nonprofit housing assistance organization. Applications for the grant
5 program must include (~~contractual agreements~~) a memorandum of
6 understanding between the housing providers and school districts
7 defining the responsibilities and commitments of each party to
8 identify, house, and support (~~homeless~~) students experiencing
9 homelessness. The memorandum must include:

10 (a) How housing providers will partner with school districts to
11 address gaps and needs and develop sustainable strategies to help
12 students experiencing homelessness; and

13 (b) How data on students experiencing homelessness and their
14 families will be collected and shared in accordance with privacy
15 protections under applicable federal and state laws.

16 (~~(3) The grants awarded to school districts shall not exceed~~
17 ~~fifteen school districts per school year.~~) (5) In determining which
18 (partnerships) eligible organizations will receive grants,
19 (preference must) the department must ensure that selected grantees
20 reflect geographic diversity across the state. Greater weight shall
21 be given to (districts with a demonstrated commitment of partnership
22 and history with) eligible organizations that demonstrate a
23 commitment to:

24 (a) Partnering with local schools or school districts; and

25 (b) Developing and implementing evidence-informed strategies to
26 address racial inequities. Specific strategies may include, but are
27 not limited to:

28 (i) Hiring direct service staff who reflect the racial, cultural,
29 and language demographics of the population being served;

30 (ii) Committing to inclusive programming by intentionally seeking
31 and utilizing input from the population being served;

32 (iii) Ensuring eligibility criteria does not unintentionally
33 screen out people of color and further racial inequity; and

34 (iv) Creating access points in locations frequented by parents,
35 guardians, and unaccompanied homeless youth of color.

36 (~~(4)~~) (6) Activities eligible for assistance under this grant
37 program include but are not limited to:

38 (a) Rental assistance, which includes utilities, security and
39 utility deposits, first and last month's rent, rental application

1 fees, moving expenses, and other eligible expenses to be determined
2 by the department;

3 (b) Transportation assistance, including gasoline assistance for
4 families with vehicles and bus passes;

5 (c) Emergency shelter; ~~((and))~~

6 (d) Housing stability case management; and

7 (e) Other collaborative housing strategies, including prevention
8 and strength-based safety and housing approaches.

9 ~~((+5))~~ (7)(a) All beneficiaries of funds from the grant program
10 must be ~~((unaccompanied youth or))~~ from ~~((very low income))~~
11 households~~((. For the purposes of this subsection, "very low income~~
12 household" means an unaccompanied youth or family or unrelated
13 persons living together whose adjusted income is less than fifty
14 percent of the median family income, adjusted for household size, for
15 the county where the grant recipient is located)) that include at
16 least one student experiencing homelessness as defined as a child or
17 youth without a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence in
18 accordance with the federal McKinney-Vento homeless assistance act,
19 42 U.S.C. Sec. 11431 through 11435.

20 (b) For the purposes of this section, "student experiencing
21 homelessness" includes unaccompanied homeless youth not in the
22 physical custody of a parent or guardian. "Unaccompanied homeless
23 youth" includes students up to the age of twenty-one, in alignment
24 with the qualifications for school admissions under RCW
25 28A.225.160(1).

26 ~~((+6))~~ (8)(a) Grantee ~~((school districts))~~ organizations must
27 compile and report information to the department. The department
28 shall report to the legislature the findings of the grantee, the
29 housing stability of the homeless families, ~~((the academic~~
30 performance of the grantee population,)) and any related policy
31 recommendations.

32 (b) Grantees must track and report on the following measures
33 including, but not limited to:

34 (i) Length of time enrolled in the grant program;

35 (ii) Housing destination at program exit;

36 (iii) Type of residence prior to enrollment in the grant program;

37 and

38 (iv) Number of times homeless in the past three years.

39 (c) Grantees must also include in their reports a narrative
40 description discussing its partnership with school districts as set

1 forth in the memorandum outlined in subsection (4) of this section.
2 Reports must also include the kinds of supports grantees are
3 providing students and families to support academic learning.

4 (d) Data on all program participants must be entered into and
5 tracked through the Washington homeless client management information
6 system as described in RCW 43.185C.180.

7 ~~((7))~~ (9) In order to ensure that ((school districts)) housing
8 providers are meeting the requirements of ((an approved)) the grant
9 program for ((homeless)) students experiencing homelessness, the
10 ((office of the superintendent of public instruction)) department, or
11 the department in partnership with its designee, shall monitor the
12 program((s)) at least once every two years. ((Monitoring shall begin
13 during the 2016-17 school year.

14 ~~(8))~~ (10) Any program review and monitoring under this section
15 may be conducted concurrently with other program reviews and
16 monitoring conducted by the department. In its review, the ((office
17 of the superintendent of public instruction)) department, or the
18 department in partnership with its designee, shall monitor program
19 components that include ((but need not be limited to)) the process
20 used by the ((district)) eligible organization to identify and reach
21 out to ((homeless)) students experiencing homelessness, ((assessment
22 data)) and other indicators to determine how well the ((district))
23 eligible organization is meeting the ((academic)) housing needs of
24 ((homeless)) students((, district expenditures used to expand
25 opportunities for these students, and the academic progress of
26 students under)) experiencing homelessness. The department, or the
27 department in partnership with its designee, shall provide technical
28 assistance and support to housing providers to better implement the
29 program.

30 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.320.142 and 2016 c 157 s 5 are each amended to
31 read as follows:

32 (1) Each ((school district that has identified more than ten
33 unaccompanied youth)) K-12 public school in the state must establish
34 a building point of contact in each elementary school, middle school,
35 and high school. These points of contact must be appointed by the
36 principal of the designated school and are responsible for
37 identifying homeless and unaccompanied homeless youth and connecting
38 them with the school district's ((homeless student)) liaison for
39 students experiencing homelessness. The school district homeless

1 student liaison is responsible for training building points of
2 contact.

3 (2) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
4 make available best practices for choosing and training building
5 points of contact to each school district.

6 NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. If specific funding for the purposes of
7 this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not
8 provided by June 30, 2019, in the omnibus appropriations act, this
9 act is null and void."

10 Correct the title.

EFFECT: (1) Modifies criteria governing how grants related to students experiencing homelessness may be awarded by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) by specifying that greater weight must be given to districts that demonstrate a commitment to partnering with qualified organizations "with experience in serving the needs of students experiencing homelessness or students of color" and implementing "evidence-informed" strategies meeting specified requirements.

(2) Modifies provisions delineating what specific strategies may include with respect to "inclusive programming."

(3) Allows the OSPI grants to be for two years rather than making the two-year duration mandatory as proposed in the underlying bill.

(4) Modifies criteria governing how grants related to students experiencing homelessness may be awarded by the Department of Commerce (Department) by specifying that greater weight must be given to eligible organizations that demonstrate a commitment to developing and implementing "evidence-informed" strategies meeting specified requirements.

(5) Authorizes the Department to contract and consult with a qualifying nonprofit vendor in the state to provide technical assistance and program evaluation, and to assist with making grant awards.

(6) Changes references to "homeless students" to "students experiencing homelessness."

(7) Adds a null and void clause. The bill is null and void unless funded in the budget.

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