

SSB 5324 - H COMM AMD  
By Committee on Education

NOT CONSIDERED 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:

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

4 (b) Serving the needs of unaccompanied youth; and

5 (c) Implementing evidence-informed strategies to address the  
6 opportunity gap and other systemic inequities that negatively impact  
7 students experiencing homelessness and students of color. Specific  
8 strategies may include, but are not limited to:

9 (i) Enhancing the cultural responsiveness of current and future  
10 staff;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 (5) School districts may not use funds allocated under this  
2 section to supplant existing federal, state, or local resources for  
3 ~~((homeless student))~~ supports for students experiencing homelessness,  
4 which may include education liaisons.

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

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

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

15 (a) Provide educational stability for ((homeless)) students  
16 experiencing homelessness by promoting housing stability; and

17 (b) Encourage the development of collaborative strategies between  
18 housing and education partners.

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

25 (a) Be a nonprofit vendor;

26 (b) Be located in Washington state; and

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

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

33 (4) The department, ~~((working with the office of the~~  
34 ~~superintendent of public instruction))~~ or the designated vendor in  
35 consultation with the department, shall develop a competitive grant  
36 process to make grant awards ~~((of no more than one hundred thousand~~  
37 ~~dollars per school, not to exceed five hundred thousand dollars per~~  
38 ~~school district,))~~ to ~~((school districts partnered with))~~ eligible  
39 organizations on implementation of the proposal. For the purposes of

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

38 ~~((4))~~ (6) Activities eligible for assistance under this grant  
39 program include but are not limited to:

1 (a) Rental assistance, which includes utilities, security and  
2 utility deposits, first and last month's rent, rental application  
3 fees, moving expenses, and other eligible expenses to be determined  
4 by the department;

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

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

8 (d) Housing stability case management; and

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

11 ~~((+5))~~ (7)(a) All beneficiaries of funds from the grant program  
12 must be ~~((unaccompanied youth or))~~ from ~~((very low income))~~  
13 households ~~((. For the purposes of this subsection, "very low-income~~  
14 household" means an unaccompanied youth or family or unrelated  
15 persons living together whose adjusted income is less than fifty  
16 percent of the median family income, adjusted for household size, for  
17 the county where the grant recipient is located)) that include at  
18 least one student experiencing homelessness as defined as a child or  
19 youth without a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence in  
20 accordance with the federal McKinney-Vento homeless assistance act,  
21 42 U.S.C. Sec. 11431 through 11435.

22 (b) For the purposes of this section, "student experiencing  
23 homelessness" includes unaccompanied homeless youth not in the  
24 physical custody of a parent or guardian. "Unaccompanied homeless  
25 youth" includes students up to the age of twenty-one, in alignment  
26 with the qualifications for school admissions under RCW  
27 28A.225.160(1).

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

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

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

37 (ii) Housing destination at program exit;

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

39 and

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

1 (c) Grantees must also include in their reports a narrative  
2 description discussing its partnership with school districts as set  
3 forth in the memorandum outlined in subsection (4) of this section.  
4 Reports must also include the kinds of supports grantees are  
5 providing students and families to support academic learning.

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

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

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

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

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

1 them with the school district's (~~homeless student~~) liaison for  
2 students experiencing homelessness. The school district homeless  
3 student liaison is responsible for training building points of  
4 contact.

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

8 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."

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