

**SHB 2711** - S COMM AMD

By Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education

**ADOPTED 03/05/2020**

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

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that students  
4 in foster care, experiencing homelessness, or both, have the lowest  
5 high school graduation and postsecondary completion outcomes compared  
6 to other student populations. The legislature also finds that these  
7 students change schools at significantly higher rates than their  
8 general student population peers, and that these changes can disrupt  
9 academic progress. The legislature further finds that these students  
10 have disproportionate suspension and expulsion rates, and require  
11 special education services at much higher rates than other students.

12 (2) The legislature acknowledges that, as a result, only forty-  
13 six percent of Washington students who experienced foster care during  
14 high school, and fifty-five percent of students experiencing  
15 homelessness, graduated from high school on time in 2018. By  
16 comparison, the statewide four-year graduation rate for the class of  
17 2019 was nearly eighty-one percent. Furthermore, students of color  
18 are disproportionately represented in the foster care system and in  
19 homeless student populations, and their academic outcomes are  
20 significantly lower than their white peers. Additionally, students  
21 who do not achieve positive education outcomes experience high rates  
22 of unemployment, poverty, adult homelessness, and incarceration.

23 (3) The legislature, therefore, intends to provide the  
24 opportunity for an equitable education for students in foster care,  
25 experiencing homelessness, or both. In accomplishing this goal, the  
26 legislature intends to achieve parity in education outcomes for these  
27 students, both in comparison to their general student population  
28 peers and throughout the education continuum of prekindergarten to  
29 postsecondary education.

30 (4) In 2018 the legislature directed the department of children,  
31 youth, and families and other entities in chapter 299, Laws of 2018,

1 to convene a work group focused on students in foster care and  
2 students experiencing homelessness. The legislature resolves to  
3 continue this work group to improve education outcomes for these  
4 students.

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

7 (1) The office of the superintendent of public instruction, in  
8 collaboration with the department of children, youth, and families,  
9 the office of homeless youth prevention and protection programs of  
10 the department of commerce, and the student achievement council,  
11 shall convene the project education impact work group to address the  
12 needs of students in foster care, experiencing homelessness, or both.  
13 The work group must include representatives of nongovernmental  
14 agencies and representation from the educational opportunity gap  
15 oversight and accountability committee. The work group must also  
16 include four legislative members appointed as follows:

17 (a) The president of the senate shall appoint one member from  
18 each of the two largest caucuses of the senate.

19 (b) The speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint one  
20 member from each of the two largest caucuses of the house of  
21 representatives.

22 (2) The work group must focus its efforts on students in foster  
23 care, experiencing homelessness, or both, and must develop and  
24 implement a plan that will accomplish the following by 2027:

25 (a) Enable the students to achieve parity in education outcomes  
26 with their general student population peers; and

27 (b) Eliminate racial and ethnic disparities for the education  
28 outcomes of the students in comparison to their general student  
29 population peers.

30 (3) (a) The work group shall review the education outcomes of  
31 students in foster care, experiencing homelessness, or both, by  
32 examining data, disaggregated by race and ethnicity, on:

33 (i) Kindergarten readiness, early grade reading and math, eighth  
34 and ninth grade students on track to graduate, high school  
35 completion, postsecondary enrollment, and postsecondary completion;  
36 and

37 (ii) School attendance, school mobility, special education  
38 status, and school discipline.

1 (b) To enable the review required by this subsection (3), the  
2 office of the superintendent of public instruction, the department of  
3 children, youth, and families, the student achievement council, and  
4 the office of homeless youth prevention and protection programs of  
5 the department of commerce shall provide updated education data and  
6 other necessary data to the education data center established under  
7 RCW 43.41.400.

8 (c) The education data center must provide an updated report to  
9 the work group on these education outcomes by March 31, 2021, and  
10 annually thereafter. If state funds are not made available to  
11 complete the reports required by this subsection (3)(c), the work  
12 group may pursue supplemental private funding to ensure the  
13 completion of the reports.

14 (4) The work group shall also:

15 (a) Evaluate the outcomes, needs, and service array for students  
16 in foster care, experiencing homelessness, or both, and the specific  
17 needs of students of color and those with special education needs;

18 (b) Engage stakeholders, including students in foster care,  
19 experiencing homelessness, or both, foster parents and relative  
20 caregivers, birth parents, caseworkers, school districts and  
21 educators, early learning providers, postsecondary institutions, and  
22 federally recognized tribes, to provide input on the development of  
23 recommendations; and

24 (c)(i) Submit annual reports to the governor, the appropriate  
25 committees of the legislature, and the educational opportunity gap  
26 oversight and accountability committee by October 31st of each year  
27 regarding the progress the state has made toward achieving education  
28 parity for students in foster care, experiencing homelessness, or  
29 both.

30 (ii) The reports required by this subsection (4)(c) must:

31 (A) Describe the progress made toward achieving the following  
32 goals for students in foster care, experiencing homelessness, or  
33 both:

34 (I) Parity in kindergarten readiness rates;

35 (II) Parity in high school graduation rates;

36 (III) Parity in postsecondary education and state-approved  
37 apprenticeship enrollment; and

38 (IV) Parity in postsecondary education and state-approved  
39 apprenticeship completion;

1 (B) Include updates on agency and nongovernmental agency actions  
2 toward achieving the goals specified in this section, and the  
3 effectiveness of support services for students in foster care,  
4 experiencing homelessness, or both;

5 (C) Include recommendations to further align and improve policy,  
6 programs, agency practice, and supports for students, and provide for  
7 shared and sustainable accountability to reach the goal of  
8 educational parity, including recommendations to:

9 (I) Address systems barriers and improve educational stability;

10 (II) Enforce existing state law requiring that education records,  
11 documentation of educational needs, individualized education  
12 programs, credits, and other records follow students when they  
13 transition between districts or to another education program or  
14 facility;

15 (III) Improve racial equity in education outcomes; and

16 (IV) Ensure appropriate work group access to consistent and  
17 accurate annual education outcomes data;

18 (D) Identify recommendations that can be implemented using  
19 existing resources, rules, and regulations and those that require  
20 policy, administrative, and resource allocation changes; and

21 (E) Identify the progress made toward meaningful engagement of  
22 stakeholders in informing recommendations.

23 (5) Nothing in this section permits disclosure of confidential  
24 information protected from disclosure under federal or state law,  
25 including but not limited to information protected under chapter  
26 13.50 RCW. Confidential information received by the work group  
27 retains its confidentiality and may not be further disseminated  
28 except as permitted by federal and state law.

29 (6) For the purposes of this section, "students in foster care,  
30 experiencing homelessness, or both" includes students who are in  
31 foster care or experiencing homelessness, and students who have been  
32 homeless or in foster care, or both, within five years of when the  
33 plan described in this section is applied.

34 (7) This section expires July 1, 2028.

35 **Sec. 3.** RCW 74.13.1051 and 2017 3rd sp.s. c 6 s 405 are each  
36 amended to read as follows:

37 (1) In order to proactively support foster youth to complete high  
38 school, enroll and complete postsecondary education, and successfully  
39 implement their own plans for their futures, the department, the

1 student achievement council, and the office of the superintendent of  
2 public instruction shall enter into, or revise existing, memoranda of  
3 understanding that:

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

7 (b) Effectuate the transfer of responsibilities from the  
8 department to the office of the superintendent of public instruction  
9 with respect to the programs in RCW 28A.300.592, and from the  
10 department to the student achievement council with respect to the  
11 program in RCW 28B.77.250 in a smooth, expedient, and coordinated  
12 fashion.

13 (2) The student achievement council and the office of the  
14 superintendent of public instruction shall establish a set of  
15 indicators relating to the outcomes provided in RCW 28A.300.590 and  
16 28A.300.592 to provide consistent services for youth, facilitate  
17 transitions among contractors, and support outcome-driven contracts.  
18 The student achievement council and the superintendent of public  
19 instruction shall collaborate with nongovernmental contractors and  
20 the department to develop a list of the most critical indicators,  
21 establishing a common set of indicators to be used in the outcome-  
22 driven contracts in RCW 28A.300.590 and 28A.300.592. (~~A list of~~  
23 ~~these indicators must be included in the report provided in~~  
24 ~~subsection (3) of this section.~~

25 ~~(3) By November 1, 2017, and biannually thereafter, the~~  
26 ~~department, the student achievement council, and the office of the~~  
27 ~~superintendent of public instruction, in consultation with the~~  
28 ~~nongovernmental entities engaged in public-private partnerships shall~~  
29 ~~submit a joint report to the governor and the appropriate education~~  
30 ~~and human services committees of the legislature regarding each of~~  
31 ~~these programs, individually, as well as the collective progress the~~  
32 ~~state has made toward the following goals:~~

33 ~~(a) To make Washington number one in the nation for foster care~~  
34 ~~graduation rates;~~

35 ~~(b) To make Washington number one in the nation for foster care~~  
36 ~~enrollment in postsecondary education; and~~

37 ~~(c) To make Washington number one in the nation for foster care~~  
38 ~~postsecondary completion.~~

39 ~~(4) The department, the student achievement council, and the~~  
40 ~~office of the superintendent of public instruction, in consultation~~

1 with the nongovernmental entities engaged in public-private  
2 partnerships, shall also submit one report by November 1, 2018, to  
3 the governor and the appropriate education and human service  
4 committees of the legislature regarding the transfer of  
5 responsibilities from the department to the office of the  
6 superintendent of public instruction with respect to the programs in  
7 RCW 28A.300.592, and from the department to the student achievement  
8 council with respect to the program in RCW 28B.77.250 and whether  
9 these transfers have resulted in better coordinated services for  
10 youth.))

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** RCW 28A.300.8001 (Plan for cross-system  
12 collaboration to promote educational stability and improve  
13 educational outcomes for foster children—Reports) and 2012 c 163 s 10  
14 are each repealed."

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By Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education

**ADOPTED 03/05/2020**

15 On page 1, line 3 of the title, after "education;" strike the  
16 remainder of the title and insert "amending RCW 74.13.1051; adding a  
17 new section to chapter 28A.300 RCW; creating a new section; repealing  
18 RCW 28A.300.8001; and providing an expiration date."

**EFFECT:** (1) Continues the Project Education Impact Work Group  
instead of convening a task force.

(2) Appoints four legislative members on the work group, one from  
each of the caucuses, instead of the chairs and ranking members of  
the committees with jurisdiction over education, early learning, and  
human services issues.

(3) Extends the duration of the task force until July 1, 2028,  
instead of December 1, 2022.

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