

SSB 5376 - H COMM AMD
By Committee on Education

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

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature recognizes that the
4 office of the education ombuds within the office of the governor was
5 established by the legislature in 2006 to reduce educational
6 opportunity gaps by supporting families, students, educators, and
7 communities in understanding the K-12 school system and resolving
8 concerns collaboratively. The legislature recognizes that it placed
9 the education ombuds within the office of the governor to ensure
10 independence and impartiality.

11 (2) The legislature recognizes that the education ombuds provides
12 services including:

13 (a) Informing students, parents or guardians, employees, and
14 members of the public about the state's public elementary and
15 secondary education system;

16 (b) Identifying obstacles and recommending strategies to help
17 students and community members to participate effectively in schools;

18 (c) Identifying and recommending strategies for improving student
19 success;

20 (d) Referring individuals and families to appropriate resources,
21 agencies, or departments;

22 (e) Facilitating the resolution of informal complaints made by
23 parents and students with regard to the state's public elementary and
24 secondary education system; and

25 (f) Serving as the lead agency to provide resources and tools to
26 parents and families about public school antiharassment policies and
27 strategies.

28 (3) The legislature intends for public schools to annually notify
29 parents or guardians, students, and school employees about these
30 services.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.600
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 (1) Beginning August 1, 2021, at the time of enrollment or
4 admission in a public school, school district, or institutional
5 education facility, a student and the parent or guardian of the
6 student must be provided with information about the services
7 available through the office of the education ombuds within the
8 office of the governor established under chapter 43.06B RCW.

9 (2)(a) Beginning August 1, 2021, each public school must:

10 (i) Include a link on its website to the education ombuds website
11 with a description of the services provided under chapter 43.06B RCW;
12 or

13 (ii) Provide a description of the services provided under chapter
14 43.06B RCW and the contact information for the education ombuds in
15 existing materials that are shared annually with families, students,
16 and school employees, such as welcome packets, orientation guides,
17 and newsletters.

18 (b) Public schools are encouraged to comply with both (a)(i) and
19 (ii) of this subsection (2).

20 (3) The education ombuds must annually develop and make a
21 template of the notification information required in this section
22 available upon request. The education ombuds must translate this
23 template into Spanish and include other languages as resources allow.

24 (4) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this
25 section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

26 (a) "Institutional education facility" means residential
27 habilitation and child study and treatment centers operated by the
28 department of social and health services, state long-term juvenile
29 institutions operated by the department of children, youth, and
30 families, state-operated community facilities, county juvenile
31 detention centers, and facilities of the department of corrections
32 that incarcerate juveniles committed as adults.

33 (b) "Public school" has the same meaning as in RCW 28A.150.010."

34 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Requires information about the services available through
the Office of the Education Ombuds (OEO) be provided to students and
their parents or guardians at the time of enrollment or admission in
a public school, school district, or institutional education
facility.

Defines "institutional education facility" to mean residential habilitation and child study and treatment centers operated by the Department of Social and Health Services, state long-term juvenile institutions operated by the Department of Children, Youth, and Families, state-operated community facilities, county juvenile detention centers, and facilities of the Department of Corrections that incarcerate juveniles committed as adults.

References the statutory definition of "public schools," which mean the common schools as referred to in Article IX of the state Constitution, charter schools, and those schools and institutions of learning having a curriculum below the college or university level as now or may be established by law and maintained at public expense.

Changes the implementation dates from September 1, 2021 to: (a) August 1, 2021 for the provision of information to students, families, and school employees; and (b) the effective date of the bill for the development of the template.

Maintains: (a) the option for public schools to either include a link to the OEO website or provide a description of the OEO services in existing materials shared annually with families, students and school employees; and (b) the requirement that the OEO annually develop and make available a template of the notification information, translated into at least Spanish.

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