

SSB 5376 - H COMM AMD
By Committee on Education

ADOPTED 02/26/2022

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 further recognizes that the education ombuds
12 provides 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, 2023, public schools must:

4 (a) Provide students and their parents or guardians with a
5 description of the services available through the office of the
6 education ombuds and the contact information for the office of the
7 education ombuds at the time of initial enrollment or admission; and

8 (b) Either: (i) Include on their website a description of the
9 services available through the office of the education ombuds and a
10 link to the website of the office of the education ombuds; or (ii)
11 provide a description of the services available through the office of
12 the education ombuds and the contact information for the office of
13 the education ombuds in existing materials that are shared annually
14 with families, students, and school employees, such as welcome
15 packets, orientation guides, and newsletters.

16 (2) Public schools are encouraged to comply with both subsection
17 (1)(b)(i) and (ii) of this section.

18 (3) By July 1, 2022, the office of the education ombuds must
19 develop a template of the information described in subsection (1) of
20 this section. The template must be translated into Spanish and into
21 other languages as resources allow. The template must be made
22 available upon request and updated as needed.

23 (4) For the purposes of this section, "public schools" has the
24 same meaning as in RCW 28A.150.010.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.190
26 RCW to read as follows:

27 Institutional education providers must comply with the
28 requirements in section 2(1) of this act, related to provision of
29 information about the office of the education ombuds.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.710
31 RCW to read as follows:

32 Section 2 (1) and (2) of this act, related to provision of
33 information about the office of the education ombuds, governs school
34 operation and management under RCW 28A.710.040 and apply to charter
35 schools established under this chapter.

36 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.715
37 RCW to read as follows:

1 Section 2 (1) and (2) of this act, related to provision of
2 information about the office of the education ombuds, governs school
3 operation and management under RCW 28A.715.020 and apply to state-
4 tribal education compact schools established under this chapter."

5 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Makes the following changes to the underlying bill:

(1) Requires that a description of the services available through the Office of the Education Ombuds (OEO) and the contact information for the OEO be provided to students and their parents or guardians at the time of enrollment or admission in a school district, institutional education program, charter school, or state-tribal education compact school;

(2) Changes implementation dates from September 1, 2021 to: (a) August 1, 2023, for activities required by public schools; and (b) July 1, 2022, for the activities required by the OEO; and

(3) References the statutory definition of "public schools."

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