
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1289

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By House Education (originally sponsored by Representatives McClintock, Santos, Schmidt, and Timmons)

READ FIRST TIME 02/20/25.

1 AN ACT Relating to assessing and improving the public school
2 system through survey information provided voluntarily by parents and
3 guardians; amending RCW 28A.600.510 and 28A.225.220; and adding a new
4 section to chapter 28A.310 RCW.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.310
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 (1)(a) The educational service districts shall jointly develop,
9 periodically refine, and promote a voluntary online survey to
10 determine how satisfied the families of current and former students
11 are with the public education system. The survey must also gather
12 feedback on families' overall experience, suggestions for
13 improvement, and reasons for student enrollment and disenrollment in
14 their local public schools.

15 (b) The educational service districts may meet the requirements
16 of (a) of this subsection by entering into an agreement with one
17 another for joint or cooperative action pursuant to chapter 39.34
18 RCW.

19 (2)(a) Each survey must include the statewide student identifier
20 for at least one student who is currently or was recently enrolled in
21 a public school.

1 (b) Parents and guardians should only submit one survey per
2 student for each public school per school year.

3 (3) (a) Beginning September 1, 2025, the online survey must be
4 maintained on at least one website maintained by the educational
5 service districts.

6 (b) By September 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, the
7 educational service districts shall jointly distribute a link to the
8 online survey to school districts, public schools, and the office of
9 the superintendent of public instruction.

10 (4) (a) On an annual basis, the educational service districts
11 shall jointly use the statewide student identifiers to assign survey
12 responses to the school district and public school that the
13 associated students are currently enrolled in or were recently
14 enrolled in. Before sharing the assigned responses with the school
15 districts and public schools, the names of parents, guardians, and
16 students must be stricken from the survey responses.

17 (b) In addition to sharing the raw survey data as described in
18 (a) of this subsection (4), the assigned survey responses must be
19 disaggregated by the student categories and subcategories described
20 in RCW 28A.300.042 (1) and (3), when applicable, by the primary
21 reason for the student's disenrollment, and by whether the parent or
22 guardian: Withdrew the student to receive home-based instruction in
23 accordance with chapter 28A.200 RCW; transferred the student to a
24 private school; transferred the student to a different public school
25 in the same school district; or transferred the student to an out-of-
26 district public school.

27 (5) The educational service districts shall work in collaboration
28 with the office of the superintendent of public instruction to
29 develop and annually update a publicly available summary of the
30 survey responses. This summary must be able to be sorted by school
31 district, public school, and the student categories and subcategories
32 described in RCW 28A.300.042 (1) and (3). Additionally, the survey
33 responses must be able to be sorted, when applicable, by the primary
34 reason for the student's disenrollment and by whether the parent or
35 guardian: Withdrew the student to receive home-based instruction in
36 accordance with chapter 28A.200 RCW; transferred the student to a
37 private school; transferred the student to a different public school
38 in the same school district; or transferred the student to an out-of-
39 district public school. This summary must be published on the website

1 of the office of the superintendent of public instruction and at
2 least one website maintained by the educational service districts.

3 (6) This section must be implemented in compliance with the
4 federal family educational rights and privacy act (20 U.S.C. Sec.
5 1232g), RCW 28A.605.030, and other federal and state laws governing
6 the privacy of student education records.

7 (7) For purposes of this section, the following definitions
8 apply:

9 (a) "Public schools" has the same meaning as in RCW 28A.150.010.

10 (b) "Statewide student identifier" means the identifier required
11 by RCW 28A.320.175.

12 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.600.510 and 2024 c 219 s 4 are each amended to
13 read as follows:

14 (1) Beginning August 1, 2023, public schools must:

15 (a) Provide students and their parents or guardians with a
16 description of the services available through the office of the
17 education ombuds and the contact information for the office of the
18 education ombuds at the time of initial enrollment or admission; and

19 (b) Either: (i) Include on their website a description of the
20 services available through the office of the education ombuds and a
21 prominent link to the complaint resolution and referral access point
22 maintained by the office of the education ombuds, described in RCW
23 43.06B.070; or (ii) provide a description of the services available
24 through the office of the education ombuds and the contact
25 information for the office of the education ombuds in existing
26 materials that are shared annually with families, students, and
27 school employees, such as welcome packets, orientation guides, and
28 newsletters. This requirement as it relates to students and families
29 may be satisfied by using the model student handbook language in RCW
30 28A.300.286.

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

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

38 (4) Beginning August 1, 2026, school districts and public schools
39 must share a link to the online survey distributed under section 1 of

1 this act with the parents or guardians of enrolled and recently
2 disenrolled students using the communication methods described in
3 subsection (1)(b) of this section.

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

6 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.225.220 and 2013 2nd sp.s. c 18 s 510 are each
7 amended to read as follows:

8 (1) Any board of directors may make agreements with adults
9 choosing to attend school, and may charge the adults reasonable
10 tuition.

11 (2) A district is strongly encouraged to honor the request of a
12 parent or guardian for his or her child to attend a school in another
13 district or the request of a parent or guardian for his or her child
14 to transfer as a student receiving home-based instruction.

15 (3) A district shall release a student to a nonresident district
16 that agrees to accept the student if:

17 (a) A financial, educational, safety, or health condition
18 affecting the student would likely be reasonably improved as a result
19 of the transfer; or

20 (b) Attendance at the school in the nonresident district is more
21 accessible to the parent's place of work or to the location of child
22 care; or

23 (c) There is a special hardship or detrimental condition; or

24 (d) The purpose of the transfer is for the student to enroll in
25 an online course or online school program offered by an online
26 provider approved under RCW 28A.250.020.

27 (4) A district may deny the request of a resident student to
28 transfer to a nonresident district if the release of the student
29 would adversely affect the district's existing desegregation plan.

30 (5) For the purpose of helping a district assess the quality of
31 its education program, a resident school district may, in addition to
32 providing the parent or guardian with a link to the online survey
33 distributed under section 1 of this act, request an optional exit
34 interview or questionnaire with the parents or guardians of a child
35 transferring to another district. No parent or guardian may be forced
36 to attend such an interview or complete the questionnaire.

37 (6) Beginning with the 1993-94 school year, school districts may
38 not charge transfer fees or tuition for nonresident students enrolled
39 under subsection (3) of this section and RCW 28A.225.225.

1 Reimbursement of a high school district for cost of educating high
2 school pupils of a nonhigh school district shall not be deemed a
3 transfer fee as affecting the apportionment of current state school
4 funds.

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