
SENATE BILL 5184

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2021 Regular Session

By Senators Nobles, Wellman, and Das; by request of Superintendent of Public Instruction

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing a building point of contact in
2 all K-12 public schools for students in foster care; amending RCW
3 28A.320.148; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature acknowledges that students
6 in foster care often face additional challenges, both academically
7 and emotionally. When students are connected with a caring adult, are
8 attending school regularly, and have the supports they need, they are
9 more likely to be successful in school and in life. Schools, child
10 welfare agencies, communities, and families must work together to
11 provide the equitable opportunities, specialized services, and useful
12 supports that are essential for students in foster care. By
13 establishing a building point of contact, the legislature intends to
14 further support coordination of resources and facilitation of
15 compliance with state and federal laws related to students who are
16 dependent pursuant to chapter 13.34 RCW.

17 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.320.148 and 2018 c 139 s 3 are each amended to
18 read as follows:

19 (1) Each school district must designate a foster care liaison to
20 facilitate district compliance with state and federal laws related to

1 students (~~(in out of home care)~~) who are dependent pursuant to
2 chapter 13.34 RCW and to collaborate with the department of children,
3 youth, and families to address educational barriers for these
4 students. The role and responsibilities of a foster care liaison may
5 include:

6 (a) Coordinating with the department of children, youth, and
7 families on the implementation of state and federal laws related to
8 students (~~(in out of home care)~~) who are dependent pursuant to
9 chapter 13.34 RCW;

10 (b) Coordinating with foster care education program staff at the
11 office of the superintendent of public instruction;

12 (c) Attending training and professional development opportunities
13 to improve school district implementation efforts;

14 (d) Serving as the primary contact person for representatives of
15 the department of children, youth, and families;

16 (e) Leading and documenting the development of a process for
17 making best interest determinations in accordance with RCW
18 28A.225.350;

19 (f) Facilitating immediate enrollment in accordance with RCW
20 28A.225.330;

21 (g) Facilitating the transfer of records in accordance with RCW
22 28A.150.510 and 28A.225.330;

23 (h) Facilitating data sharing with child welfare agencies
24 consistent with state and federal privacy laws and rules;

25 (i) Developing and coordinating local transportation procedures;

26 (j) Managing best interest determination and transportation cost
27 disputes according to the best practices developed by the office of
28 the superintendent of public instruction;

29 (k) Ensuring that students (~~(in out of home care)~~) who are
30 dependent pursuant to chapter 13.34 RCW are enrolled in and regularly
31 attending school, consistent with RCW 28A.225.023; and

32 (l) Providing professional development and training to school
33 staff on state and federal laws related to students (~~(in out of home~~
34 ~~care)~~) who are dependent pursuant to chapter 13.34 RCW and their
35 educational needs, as needed.

36 (2) (~~For the purposes of this section, "out of home care" has~~
37 ~~the same meaning as in RCW 13.34.030.~~) Each K-12 public school in
38 the state must establish a building point of contact in each
39 elementary school, middle school, and high school. These points of
40 contact must be appointed by the principal of the designated school,

1 in consultation with the district foster care liaison, and are
2 responsible for coordinating services and resources for students in
3 foster care as outlined in subsection (1) of this section.

4 (3) The district foster care liaison is responsible for training
5 building points of contact.

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

--- **END** ---