

SSB 6074 Homeless Student Educational Outcomes

- Purpose:** The purpose/objective of this program is to improve educational outcomes for children and youth experiencing homelessness in Washington State. Homeless student advocates in Washington initiated this legislation in an effort to increase awareness of the educational needs of homeless students, and to provide additional training and support to local school district staff in an effort to better identify and serve children and youth experiencing homelessness in our schools. Per SSB 6074 (2014 Session), the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction was required to post a brochure on the OSPI website explaining the educational rights for children and youth experiencing homelessness, which will serve to inform parents and students. Additionally, OSPI was required to develop/acquire a short video related to the identification of homeless students to be posted on the OSPI website to be used by school district staff for training/awareness purposes. Also, another document required by SSB 6074 regarding the best practices for choosing and training school district homeless student liaisons was completed through a contract with the National Center for Homeless Education, and was posted on the OSPI website. Further, OSPI is now required to report to the Governor and the Legislature, starting January 10, 2015, and every odd-numbered year thereafter, the following data regarding homeless students: the number enrolled, the number participating in certain programs, the academic performance and educational outcomes of homeless students using a variety of performance and educational outcomes (listed in detail in SSB 6074), and state and district-level information disaggregated by several subgroups. In addition to the new OSPI requirements, school districts are now required to “strongly encourage” all staff to annually review the video posted on the OSPI website, and every district-designated homeless liaison is “strongly encouraged” to attend training provided by the state to ensure that homeless children and youth are identified and served. Each school district must also include information about services and support for homeless students in existing materials for students and parents, and districts are also strongly encouraged to use a variety of communications each year to notify students and families about services and support available to them if they experience homelessness. Each school district must account for the educational progress of each of its students. To achieve this, school districts must report annually to OSPI on a number of issues, including but not limited to dropout rates for student populations in each of the grades seven through 12 by identified homeless status.

- Number of staff associated with this program/service (indicate where applicable):**

Fiscal Year 2017

of OSPI staff associated with this funding (FTEs): 0

of contractors/other staff associated with this funding: 0

FY 17 Funding: State Appropriation: \$36,000

Federal Appropriation: \$0

Other fund sources: \$0

TOTAL (FY17) \$36,000

- Are federal or other funds contingent on state funding? If yes, explain. N/A.**
- Is continued funding needed in the next biennium? Yes.**
- What is the current status of this program’s implementation?**
 - Two short voice-over webinars were acquired or created and posted to the OSPI website (2014.)

- A new contract (2016-2017) with Hear Us, Inc. allowed OSPI to develop a new Washington film/DVD for training and awareness in local districts. It will be posted to the OSPI website when it is made ADA compliant. It is currently available to all school district homeless liaisons via flash drive. (The video includes stories of children and youth experiencing homelessness in our state.)
- An issue brief related to the appropriate selection of the district homeless liaison was developed through a small contract with the National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE) and posted to the OSPI website (2014.)
- The NCHE Parent Booklet and other parent information are posted to the OSPI website.
- New school district staff resource book has been completed (through a small contract with NCHE) and has been distributed to participants at McKinney-Vento Liaison Training in fall, 2016. It has also posted to the OSPI website.
- Training has expanded, additional workshops and sessions were added in 2015-16, and training opportunities will continue to grow into the coming 2016 school year, including additional on-site training, new webinars and other training options. (To help meet the need for local districts to understand and properly implement the federal McKinney-Vento Act.)
- The second Legislative Report regarding homeless student data is in process was completed by January 1, 2017 as required (to be completed and provided to the legislature every-other year.)

6. **When will the project be completed?** Ongoing. (Training and legislative reports will continue into the future.)

7. **First year funded: FY 2015**

8. **State funding history:**

Fiscal Year	Amount
FY17	\$36,000
FY16	\$36,000
FY15	\$44,000

9. **Programmatic changes since inception (if any):** OSPI has increased the number and frequency of McKinney-Vento (Education of Homeless Children and Youth) training opportunities to accommodate the demand for training. This increasing focus on training has pulled the staff (1 FTE Program Supervisor) from other required duties such as district monitoring, program development, federally required McKinney-Vento State Coordinator duties, grant oversight, attendance at state agency collaborative meetings, etc.

10. **Major challenges faced by the program:** The number of homeless youngsters has grown every year since the annual homeless student count has been required by the US Department of Education (2003). Staff time continues to be a challenge.

11. **Future opportunities:** The requirements of SSB 6074 have resulted in additional materials for local school districts, and have increased training opportunities. Most importantly, the required Legislative Report has provided a more complex overview of data and information related to the educational outcomes of homeless students in our state. As we learn more about the disproportionality related to homeless student's educational outcomes, and as school district staff are more supported locally in accessing training and information, the next step could be in better supporting OSPI as the Homeless Children and Youth program supervisor works closely with districts to infuse best practices, combines efforts with other state and federal programs to better support students experiencing homelessness, and seeks to fulfill the duties outlined in the federal law.

12. Statutory and/or Budget language:

Budget Proviso: 2ESHB 2376, Sec. 1511 (22), page 228, - \$36,000 of the general fund--state appropriation for fiscal year 2016, and \$36,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2017 are provided solely for chapter 212, Laws of 2014 (Substitute Senate Bill 6074) (homeless student educational outcomes).

13. Other relevant information: The Education for Homeless Children and Youth program (per the federal McKinney-Vento Act) continues to grow. Demand upon OSPI as well as the demand upon our local school districts continues to grow. During the 2015-16 school year, Washington State reported 39,127 homeless youngsters enrolled in our schools across the state, and those numbers have increased every year since the annual homeless student count has been required by US Department of Education (2003.) The 2016-17 data collection is occurring in the fall of 2017, and those numbers will be released to US Department of Education in late fall/early winter, 2017. Ongoing efforts to comply with existing, as well as new, program requirements per reauthorized federal legislation or new state legislation, will continue to exceed the capacity of existing program staff at OSPI.

14. Program Contact Information:

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