



Homeless Student Educational Outcomes

1. **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, now RCW 28A.300.540), the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction is required to post a brochure on the OSPI website explaining the educational rights for children and youth experiencing homelessness, which serves to inform parents and students. Additionally, OSPI is 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 in 2014, and updated in 2020. 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 issues including, but not limited to, dropout rates for student populations in each of the grades seven through 12 by identified homeless status.

2. Description of services provided:

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction provides training/professional development, documents, guidance, printed parent information, video and webinar links posted to the OSPI website, and other resources as required by SSB 6074 to ensure school district staff as well as parents and youth have necessary resources and information available. Additionally, OSPI provides a report to the Governor and the Legislature, starting in 2015, and every odd-numbered year after that, regarding homeless student data including numbers enrolled, academic performance, and other information by sub-group.

3. Criteria for receiving services and/or grants:

SSB 6074 does not include grants or other direct funding to local districts.

Beneficiaries in 2021-22 School Year:

Number of School Districts:	295 + tribal compacts and charters
Number of Schools:	N/A
Number of Students:	N/A
Number of Educators:	N/A
Other:	N/A

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

Number of contractors/other staff associated with this funding: 0

FY22 Funding:	State Appropriation:	\$36,000
	Federal Appropriation:	\$0
	Other Fund Sources:	\$0
	TOTAL (FY22)	\$36,000

4. Are federal or other funds contingent on state funding?

No

5. **State funding history:**

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
2022	\$36,000	\$33,236
2021	\$36,000	\$36,000
2020	\$36,000	\$35,896
2019	\$36,000	\$36,000
2018	\$36,000	\$35,486

6. **Number of beneficiaries (e.g., school districts, schools, students, educators, other) history:**

Fiscal Year	Number of Schools
2022	295 districts (plus charter schools, Tribal Compacts and other LEAs)
2021	295 districts (plus charter schools, Tribal Compacts and other LEAs)
2020	295 districts (plus charter schools, Tribal Compacts and other LEAs)
2019	295 districts (plus charter schools, Tribal Compacts and other LEAs)
2018	295 districts (plus charter schools, Tribal Compacts and other LEAs)

7. **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 staff (2 FTE Program Supervisors) and a part-time administrative assistant 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. Additionally, with the passage of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) in 2015, demands on the OSPI program staff have increased. It is now a requirement under the federal McKinney-Vento Act that all states provide routine training related to the education of homeless children and youth, and school district homeless liaisons are now required (not just "strongly encouraged" per state law) to attend training. And with the passage of ESSA, which made significant changes to the previous No Child Left Behind (NCLB) requirements; documents, guidance, resources, video/webinar links and other resources needed to be updated to reflect changes in state and federal laws. In fall 2020, OSPI used a portion of HSSeP (Homeless Student Stability education Program) funding to hire a trainer (temporary/project position) to assist with the increased demands of professional development/training during the 2020-21 school year. Since that time, the training

position has become a permanent full-time position, however, with staff turnover the position is currently vacant (as of 9.22) and recruitment is underway to hire a new staff member to fill this vacancy.

There is no guarantee that those state HSSeP funds will remain available as a resource to continue this position, however the intention of OSPI is to maintain the position of a full-time McKinney Vento Trainer using available state and federal funding through HSSeP, McKinney- Vento and/or ARP-HCY.

8. Evaluations of program/major findings:

Annual homeless student data collection efforts indicate a growing population of youngsters experiencing homelessness in our state. The Legislative report required under SSB 6074 has further demonstrated that students experiencing homelessness have lower assessment scores, higher absenteeism rates and other risk indicators associated with an increased possibility of academic failure. Further, the challenges caused by COVID and the need for remote learning during the 2020-21 school year resulted in a significant drop in district-level homeless student identification, which continues to be an OSPI priority to ensure identification, enrollment and access for students experiencing homelessness. We continue to monitor district data for improvement in identification as districts recover from the COVID shutdown.

9. 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). Approximately 40,000 homeless children and youth are currently enrolled in school districts across Washington. Staff time continues to be a challenge with the increase in requests for support and technical assistance from OSPI. Additionally, ensuring materials, training, print/electronic resources, and other supports relevant and up to date (per changes in the law) has continued to be a challenge as demand from districts increases. With the 2020 COVID 19 pandemic and subsequent school closures, the necessary supports for students experiencing homelessness including remote learning, outreach, identification and enrollment have all been impacted.

Further, the school closures caused many districts to reduce staff and re-assign the required McKinney-Vento liaison role to a new person who was unfamiliar with the duties, or to a person with multiple responsibilities who lacked the time to appropriately fulfill the role.

10. 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 receive enhanced local support in accessing training and information, the next step could include additional supports for the

OSPI Homeless Children and Youth program. The OSPI Homeless Children and Youth program supervisors works closely with districts to infuse best practices, combine efforts with other state and federal programs to better support students experiencing homelessness, and fulfill the duties outlined in the federal law. With the growing demand from districts, the increase in student homelessness and the professional development and implementation requirements at the local level, OSPI will need to build capacity in order to maintain effectiveness.

11. Statutory and/or budget language:

ESSB 5693, Sec. 522(7)(b) - \$36,000 of the general fund--state appropriation for fiscal year 2022 and \$36,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2023 are provided solely for chapter 212, Laws of 2014 (homeless student educational outcomes).

12. 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 2020-21 school year, Washington State identified roughly 33,000 homeless youngsters enrolled in schools across the state, which was the first significant decrease in homeless student numbers since the annual homeless student count has been required by US Department of Education (2003.) Due to the challenges created by school closures due to COVID, the 2020-21 data collection results were an important reflection of the changes in homeless student identification efforts across the state when schools were closed and students were learning remotely. We anticipate the 2021-22 data will reflect an increase in identification with the return of in-person learning. Homeless student data pulled from the OSPI CEDARS system will be released to US Department of Education in late fall/early winter, 2022. The infusion of federal American Rescue Plan – Homeless Children and Youth funds (ARP-HCY) has allowed OSPI to provide resources to numerous district that have not been funded with EHCY grants in the past. OSPI received over \$12M in ARP-HCY funds which will support district efforts through September 2024. With these funds, additional federal reporting, district technical assistance and grant management responsibilities have been added to the duties of our staff. Ongoing efforts to comply with existing, as well as new, program requirements per reauthorized federal legislation or new state legislation, continue to far exceed the capacity of existing program staff at OSPI

13. Schools/districts receiving assistance:

See [OSPI's grantee list](#).

14. Program Contact Information:

Name: Melinda Dyer
Title: Program Supervisor, Education of Homeless Children and Youth - McKinney- Vento
Phone: 360-725-6505
Email: Melinda.Dyer@k12.wa.us