

SSB 6074 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), 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. 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.

2. **Description of services provided:** The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction provides 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, a report 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 2018-19 School Year:

# of School Districts:	295
# of Schools:	00
# of Students:	00

Other: 00

of OSPI staff associated with this funding (FTEs): 0.0
of contractors/other staff associated with this funding: 0

FY 18 Funding: State Appropriation: \$36,000
Federal Appropriation: \$0
Other fund sources: \$0
TOTAL (FY19) \$36,000

4. Are federal or other funds contingent on state funding? If yes, explain. N/A

5. State funding history:

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
FY 19	\$36,000	\$36,000
FY18	\$36,000	\$35,486
FY17	\$36,000	\$36,000
FY16	\$36,000	\$36,000
FY15	\$44,000	\$44,000

6. Number of beneficiaries (e.g., schools, students, districts) history:

Fiscal Year	# of Districts
FY18	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 the staff (1 FTE Program Supervisor and 1 FTE Administrative Program Specialist) 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 all need to be updated to reflect changes in state and federal laws.

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.

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). Currently, over 40,000 homeless children and youth are 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.

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 supervisor 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:**
Budget Proviso: SSB 6032 Sec. 513 (19) - \$36,000 of the general fund--state appropriation for fiscal year 2018, and \$36,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2019 are provided solely for chapter 212, Laws of 2014 (Substitute Senate Bill 6074) (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 2018-19 school year, Washington State reported over 41,000 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 2018-19 data collection is occurring in the summer/fall of 2019, and those numbers will be released to US Department of Education in late fall/early winter, 2019. 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.

13. **List of schools/districts receiving assistance:** See OSPI [website](#).

14. **Program Contact Information:**
Melinda Dyer, Program Supervisor
Education of Homeless Children and Youth – McKinney-Vento
Melinda.Dyer@K12.wa.us
(360) 725-6505