



SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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June 29, 2018

(X) Action Required
Due date: September 1, 2018
() Informational

BULLETIN NO. 067-18 STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT

TO: Educational Service District Superintendents
School District Superintendents
School District Business Managers
School District Foster Care Liaisons

FROM: Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: Best Practices for Serving Students in Out-of-Home Care (ESHB 2684)

CONTACT: Peggy Carlson, Program Supervisor
360-725-6505, peggy.carlson@k12.wa.us

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND

Governor Inslee signed [House Bill 2684 \(2018\) Session Law](#) which defines best practices for the process and people involved in best interest determination of students in out-of-home care. The bill goes into effect on September 1.

Key Points of the bill:

- Requires school districts to collaborate with the Department of Children, Youth, and Family Services (DCYFS).
- Defines protocols used in making best interest determinations.
- Requires school districts to designate a foster care liaison.

COLLABORATION—REGIONAL EDUCATION AGREEMENTS

School districts are required to establish written agreements in collaboration with child welfare. The **Regional Education Agreement** was originally developed to meet the mandate for school districts to develop formal collaboration agreements with Children’s Administration (CA) as required under Section 1112 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). This agreement was finalized in October, 2017 and vetted by both the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and CA, our respective Assistant Attorney General (AAGs), and our federal partners to ensure it meets compliance requirements.

School districts that have signed and returned the Regional Education Agreement with CA are in compliance with the collaboration requirement of ESHB 2684 (2018). Those agreements that have

been signed and executed with CA will transfer over to the new Department of Children, Youth, and Family Services. School districts that have not yet signed and returned the Regional Education Agreement should refer to [OSPI Bulletin No. O99-17](#) for instructions on securing that agreement.

PROTOCOLS FOR BEST INTEREST DETERMINATIONS

ESHB 2684 (2018) is consistent with federal laws and current OSPI policy related to best interest determinations. To review this policy, please refer to [Best Practices: School Selection for Children and Youth in Foster Care](#) on the OSPI Foster Care Education site.

SCHOOL DISTRICT FOSTER CARE LIAISONS

ESHB 2684 (2018) is consistent with federal law and current OSPI policy requiring school districts to designate a foster care liaison. To review this policy, please refer to the [OSPI Bulletin No. 032-16](#). The Foster Care Education Program at OSPI maintains a database of contact information for each designated liaison. OSPI provides communication to liaisons through this database. Districts need to submit new contact information whenever there is a liaison change. To update your school district's information, please fill out the survey here: [Foster Care Liaison Contact Information](#).

INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

For questions regarding this bulletin, please contact Peggy Carlson, Program Supervisor, at 360-725-6505 or email peggy.carlson@k12.wa.us. The OSPI TTY number is 360-664-3631.

This bulletin is also available on the [Bulletins](#) page of the OSPI website at www.k12.wa.us/BulletinsMemos/bulletins2018.

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CR:as