

Parents' Rights | Discrimination | Gender Inclusion Policies and Procedures |

SB 5123 (Nobles)

- [SB 5123](#) - Public Hearing - Expanding protections for certain students to promote inclusivity in public schools. (Remote Testimony Available).

What the bill does: would create new definitions for ethnicity, gender expression, gender identify, sexual orientation, homelessness, neurodivergence, and immigration status, and add these protections to the school district statute prohibiting discrimination.

	What it does	Proposed Amendment/Comment
Section 1: Intent	Intent section to provide statewide protection for marginalized students to improve inclusiveness.	
Section 2: Adds a new section to RCW 28A.642 (Discrimination Prohibition)	Creates definitions for: Ethnicity; Gender expression, Gender identity, and Sexual Orientation; Homelessness; Neurodivergence; Immigration status	
Section 3: Amends RCW 28A.642.010 (definitions)	In addition to prohibiting discrimination in several categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adds: ethnicity, homelessness, immigration status and neurodivergence to the definition; • Separates sexual orientation from gender expression and gender identify, making them all distinct categories. 	

SB 5179 (C. Wilson)

- [SB 5179](#) - Public Hearing - Establishing a complaint process to address noncompliance with certain state education laws. (Remote Testimony Available).

What the bill does: would establish a complaint process to be managed by OSPI and authorize OSPI to impose penalties in cases where school directors and/or superintendents willfully break state law.

	What it does	Proposed Amendment/Comment
Section 1 – Intent	States the rationale behind creating a complaint process for students, parents, and community members to address noncompliance with certain state laws.	
Section 2 – Creating new definitions	Creates definitions, including broad complaint; limited complaint; negligent; noncompliance with state law and references which state laws apply; and willful – nonaccidental action or inaction by a superintendent, school board or school board member that they knew or reasonably should have known would result in noncompliance with state law.	Laws include civil rights and nondiscrimination; sexual harassment; harassment, intimidation and bullying; curriculum requirements and library materials; the use of isolation and restraint on a student; and student discipline.
Section 3 – Setting up the complaint process	<p>Directs OSPI to establish a process to investigate and address complaints by July 1, 2026.</p> <p>Any student, parent or legal guardian may file a limited or broad complaint with OSPI.</p> <p>Anyone residing in the school district boundaries can file a broad complaint with OSPI.</p> <p>Prior to filing a complaint with OSPI, a person must have exhausted existing complaint procedures. If there are no procedures, they must notify the district superintendent before filing the complaint with OSPI.</p> <p>OSPI may develop rules to implement the section.</p>	

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Section 4 – Finding of noncompliance	<p>OSPI must investigate complaints promptly.</p> <p>If OSPI finds noncompliance with state law, the district superintendent and school board must adopt and submit a compliance plan, submitted by the timeline established by OSPI.</p> <p>Describes what's needed in a compliance plan, who needs to participate, and a requirement for a public hearing on the plan.</p>	
Section 5 – Public hearings and consequences of noncompliance	<p>After a finding of noncompliance with state law, two public hearings must be held, and an additional hearing every six months until OSPI finds the district follows state law.</p> <p>Allows OSPI to impose any of the following under a finding of willful noncompliance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Come into compliance; • Find the superintendent unprofessional and held accountable; • As a last resort, withhold and redirect up to 20% of state funds allocated to the school districts to support the compliance action plan until compliance is achieved. 	
Section 7 – Model Student Handbook	<p>OSPI must update the model student handbook to include the complaint process. All district student handbooks must be updated. This takes effect August 1, 2025 (Section 14).</p>	
Section 8 – Superintendent Accountability	<p>The Professional Educator Standards Board is directed to adopt rules that make a school district superintendent's willful noncompliance with state law an act of unprofessional conduct.</p> <p>It is a defense if the superintendent can show that they were actively attempting to bring the school district into compliance with state law.</p>	
Section 9	<p>School board directors must uphold not just the US Constitution and State Constitution, but Washington State Law.</p>	

SB 5180 (C. Wilson, Lias)

- [SB 5180](#) - Public Hearing - Securing the rights of students to have a safe, civil, and respectful learning community. (Remote Testimony Available).

What the bill does: Updates the statutory language to replace references to “transgender students” with “gender inclusive schools” for the purposes of the model policy and procedures. Requires districts to update their model policy accordingly.

	What it does	Proposed Amendment/Comment
Section 1 – Intent	Shares the legislative intention to clearly state the required components of the model policy and procedure relating to gender inclusion.	
Section 2 – Model policy components	<p>Updates the statutory language to replace references to “transgender students” with “gender inclusive schools” for purposes of the model policy and procedures.</p> <p>Requires school boards to update and adopt their model policies and procedures at the next regularly scheduled board meeting after July 27, 2025.</p> <p>Describes the elements of the model policy and procedures, including the rights of students to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be referred to by their preferred name and pronouns at school; • Participate in school-sponsored activities, athletics or both consistent with their gender expression or gender identify; • Use the restroom that corresponds to their gender expression or gender identify; <p>In addition, the policy and procedures must state that no person employed or contracted with the district may disclose any information related to a student’s sexual orientation, gender expression, or gender identity to any person without the student’s consent.</p>	
Section 3 – Retaliation	Retaliation is prohibited by a school district employee against any other employee when they are following certain laws or procedures as described.	

SB 5181 (C. Wilson, Pedersen)

- [SB 5181](#) - Public Hearing - Amending the parents rights initiative to bring it into alignment with existing law. (Remote Testimony Available).

What the bill does: Amends the Parents' Rights initiative enacted in the 2024 legislative session. Among the various section changes, the bill would update the RCW to other current laws related to protecting student rights in various situations. The bill also would modify the definition of "education record," and would modify notification of parents for certain student actions.

	What it does	Proposed Amendment/Comment
Section 1 (2)(a) and (b)	<p>States the rights of parents and legal guardians as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right to access their child's classroom and school-sponsored activities and examine curriculum, textbooks, instructional materials, and supplemental instructional materials used in the classroom. • Inspect their child's education records and request a copy of the records in accordance with FERPA, within a reasonable amount of time. • Not be charged to inspect records or costs of searching for or retrieving the education records. <p>Changes terms from "public school records" to "education records" and defines what the records include and don't include. For example, education records would not include records that are kept in the sole possession of the maker, used as a memory aid, and are not accessible or revealed to others except a temporary substitute.</p>	
Section 1 (2)(c), (d), and (e) - Notification	<p>Removes parent rights to receive prior notification when medical services are being offered, or when any medical service or medication has been provided that would create a financial impact, or when medical treatment results in follow up care beyond normal school hours.</p> <p>Changes notification from "immediate" to "within a reasonable amount of time, but no later than 72 hours, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criminal action that has been committed against their child on school property during the day or if their child was detained based on probable cause of involvement in criminal activity on school property during the school day; 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law enforcement questioning their child during a custodial interrogation at the school during the school day; • If their child is removed from school grounds or building during school hours under certain conditions. 	
Section 1 (2)(f) – No discrimination	Parents have a right not to have their child be discriminated against.	Uses the existing statute, not the updated one proposed in SB 5123.
Section 1 (2) (g) – Opting out options	The right to opt their child out of any survey, analysis, or evaluation that reveals information concerning political affiliations or beliefs; mental or psychological problems; sex behavior and attitudes; illegal, antisocial, self-incriminating or demeaning behavior; critical appraisals of other individuals; Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships (lawyers, physicians, ministers); or income (other than that required to receive financial assistance.	
Section 1 (2)(l) – academic progress	Parents have a right to know about their child’s academic progress or lack thereof.	
Section 1 (3) – not required to release	Schools are not required to release any records or information regarding a student’s health care, social work, counseling, or disciplinary records if the parent or guardian is the defendant in a criminal proceeding where the student is the named victim.	
Effective date	July 27, 2025	

HB 1296 (Stonier)

- [HB 1296](#) - Public Hearing - Promoting a safe and supportive public education system.

What the bill does: Requires districts to comply with state laws and sets up consequences for failure to comply; creates a Students Statement of Rights; modifies the Parents' Rights Act, including removing access to medical and mental health records; prohibits retaliation against school district employees from other school employees and prohibits termination due to compliance with curriculum changes for historically marginalized and protected classes.

	HB 1296 components	Senate bill related	Proposed Amendment/Comment
Section 101	<p>School districts must prioritize the protection of every student's safety, access to a free public education, and privacy to the fullest extent possible.</p> <p>OSPI shall develop technical assistance and related materials to assist districts with this requirement.</p> <p>Failure to comply could result in sanctions of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terminating all or part of state apportionment or categorical moneys to the offending school districts; • Termination of specified programs in which violations may be flagrant within the offending school district; • Corrective action; • Probation. <p>Prior to taking an action, OSPI shall identify corrective action to get into compliance or, if requested, provide technical assistance.</p> <p>OSPI shall develop rules to implement.</p>		
Section 102	By January 1, 2026, the transgender model policy and procedures must be updated.	SB 5180	

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Section 103	<p>Directs OSPI to update and periodically revise rules and guidelines to eliminate discrimination related to RCW 28A.642.010 and 28A.320.323.</p> <p>Requires OSPI rules on supplemental materials to be completed by December 31, 2025.</p>	SB 5123	
Section 201	Intent section – Creating a Statement of Student Rights	None	
Section 202	<p>Describes the student-focused education and promotional materials on student rights. A link must be made available on school websites, social media platforms, and other communication channels used by students.</p> <p>Describes what must be included in the statement of student rights.</p>		
Section 301 – Parent and Legal Guardian Rights	<p>Changes to underlying law:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The time to inspect student education records is changed from receipt within 10 days to no more than 45 days; • Removes medical or health records or records of mental health counseling from inspection or review; 	SB 5181	
Notifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removes notifications for medical services or treatment; • Removes notifications for criminal action against their child or by their child or law enforcement questioning their child. 	Different than SB 5181	
Opting out	Allows parents to opt their child out and updates language.	Similar to SB 5181	

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Adds Filing a Complaint	Parents may file a complaint on behalf of their child relating to harassment, intimidation, and bullying RCW 28A.600.477.		
Military transfers	Have their child attend the school district if they are transferred to or pending transfer to a military installation within the state.		
Homelessness	Have their child qualify without a legal residence for enrollment in a school district.		
Bilingual language assistance	Have their child whose primary language is not English access supplemental instruction and services through the TBIP.		
Other "rights" added	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request enrollment in a nonresident school; • Be notified of unexcused absences; • Request special education services; • Appeal to OSPI if their child with disabilities has been denied special education services; • Access special education due process hearings. 		
Health and medical records	Expands from medical and health or mental health counseling to: health care, social work, counseling or disciplinary actions when the parent or legal guardian is a defendant in a criminal proceeding.		
Education Records	Defines Education Records	Similar to SB 5181	
Section 401 – Retaliation	Prohibits retaliation for school district employees or school district employees and directors from taking adverse employment action against a teacher for using instructional materials approved in accordance with RCW 28A.320.230.	Similar to SB 5181	
Effective date	Upon Governor's signature		