
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5468 (as amended by House "A")*

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF EQUIVALENT INSTRUCTION.

SUMMARY

Starting with the 2028-29 school year, this bill requires parents or guardians (“parents”) of most school-age children to annually complete (or cause to be completed) an intent to educate form indicating whether their child will (1) enroll in a public school, (2) attend a nonpublic school, or (3) be instructed through parent-managed learning (such as homeschooling). The forms must be submitted to the school district where the parent resides by October 1 and may be submitted electronically. The bill deems parents in compliance with this requirement if their child attends a public school or if the nonpublic school the child attends files the required annual attendance report.

Starting with the 2027-28 school year, the bill requires parents who withdraw a child from public school to go, in person, to the school district’s office and sign a withdrawal form. It also prohibits parents withdrawing their child for parent-managed learning from doing so if any adult living with the child is on the state’s child abuse and neglect registry or currently under investigation for child abuse or neglect. The bill requires the district’s superintendent to conduct a records check with the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to determine whether a child may be withdrawn for parent-managed learning.

The bill also requires:

1. the State Department of Education (SDE) to create the intent to educate and withdrawal forms and make them available to school districts (§ 2) and
2. school boards to report to SDE the number of children being instructed through parent-managed learning for whom an intent

to educate form was completed (§ 4).

Lastly, the bill makes technical and conforming changes.

*House Amendment “A” modifies the underlying bill by, among other things, (1) renaming “equivalent instruction” as “parent-managed learning;” (2) making the intent to educate form an annual requirement and eliminating the continuation form; (3) allowing the intent to educate form to be submitted electronically; (4) requiring all adults (rather than just the parent) residing with a child who is being withdrawn for parent-managed learning to be checked against DCF records, but narrowing the circumstances under which withdrawal is prohibited; (5) modifying procedures for the required DCF records check; and (6) removing provisions (a) explicitly allowing students receiving equivalent instruction to participate in certain public school activities and (b) granting school boards additional funding through ECS (education cost sharing) to complete their obligations under the bill.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2027, except the requirement for SDE to create the forms and the conforming changes are effective July 1, 2026.

PARENT-MANAGED LEARNING

Under the state’s current compulsory school attendance law, parents must either send their children to public school or show they are otherwise receiving instruction equivalent to the one provided in public school (with certain exceptions, such as parents opting to delay school for a five- or six-year-old).

The bill modifies this law to specifically require parents to (1) send their child to public or nonpublic school or (2) instruct them in the studies taught in public school through “parent-managed learning” (education managed by a child’s parent or guardian in a setting other than a public or nonpublic school). Under existing law and the bill, regardless of educational setting, children must receive instruction in reading, writing, spelling, English grammar, geography, arithmetic, and United States history and citizenship (including town, state, and federal governments).

INTENT TO EDUCATE FORM

Submission Requirement

Starting with the 2028-29 school year, the bill requires certain parents to annually complete (or cause to be completed) an intent to educate form indicating whether their child will (1) enroll in a public school, (2) attend a nonpublic school, or (3) be instructed through parent-managed learning. It applies to parents of children:

1. enrolled in public school;
2. attending nonpublic school;
3. instructed through parent-managed learning (a) that are newly eligible for kindergarten (by turning five before September 1 of the school year) or (b) for whom an intent to educate or a withdrawal form was submitted the prior school year;
4. for whom an option form was signed (the parent opted to defer their five- or six-year-old from starting school, as allowed under existing law and the bill); and
5. who move to a different school district or withdraw from a nonpublic school during the school year.

The requirement to submit the intent to educate form does not apply to parents of children currently being instructed through parent-managed learning unless they move into a new school district.

Under the bill, a parent is deemed in compliance with the requirement to submit the intent to educate form if the (1) child attends a public school or (2) nonpublic school the child attends files the annual attendance report it must submit under existing law.

Submission Procedure

Under the bill, intent to educate forms must be submitted by October 1, to the school district office for the town where the parent resides, and they may be completed and submitted electronically. Parents who move into a district have 14 days to complete the form.

Nonpublic Schools

The bill requires parents of children who will attend a nonpublic school to submit evidence of that fact (for example, an acceptance letter).

Procedure When Forms Are Not Submitted

Under the bill, if a school board does not receive an intent to educate form from a parent required to submit by November 1 (and the parent is not deemed compliant as described above), the board must make at least three attempts to contact the parent to tell them they must submit the form. If the board cannot make contact by November 1, the bill requires the school board to notify SDE that it has not received the form.

WITHDRAWALS FROM PUBLIC SCHOOL

Starting with the 2027-28 school year, the bill requires parents who withdraw a child from public school to go, in person, to the school district's office and sign a withdrawal form.

Withdrawals for Nonpublic School

If the child is withdrawing to attend a nonpublic school, the parent must show evidence that the child will attend the school. The child's withdrawal is complete when the school district receives this evidence.

Withdrawals for Parent-Managed Learning

If a child is withdrawing for parent-managed learning, the withdrawal is not effective until the superintendent completes a records check with DCF. The bill specifies that this check does not constitute a report of suspected child abuse or neglect.

Under the bill, within two days after receiving a withdrawal form, the superintendent (or his or her designee) must conduct a records check with DCF for each person ages 18 or older who lives with the child. The bill specifically allows DCF to release information from its records to school boards in order to complete the bill's requirement.

The records check must identify whether any of the adults living with the child are (1) on the state child abuse and neglect registry or (2) currently under DCF investigation for child abuse or neglect. If so, the

child may not be withdrawn. Within five days after starting the records check, the superintendent must notify the parent whether the withdrawal is effective. If it is not, the superintendent must tell the parent (1) the reason the withdrawal is not effective and (2) how he or she may challenge the records check findings, including appropriate DCF contact information.

DCF as a State Educational Authority

The bill also deems DCF to be a state educational authority under the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) for the records check and allows it to receive the educational records of any child for whom a withdrawal form is signed.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 26 Nay 20 (03/18/2026)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 34 Nay 19 (04/17/2026)