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Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
Chris Reykdal, Superintendent

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(X) Action Required
() Informational

BULLETIN NO. 050-21 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: New Legislative Requirement: Foster Care Building Points of Contact

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

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND

[Senate Bill \(SB\) 5184](#): K–12 Students in Foster Care—Building Point of Contact, which requires each public school to identify a point of contact for students in foster care, was signed into law on April 16, 2021 and goes into effect July 25, 2021. This bill was requested by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and reflects feedback and needs from child welfare stakeholders and Washington school districts.

Students in foster care often face academic and social/emotional/behavioral challenges beyond those experienced by their non-foster care peers. When students are connected with a caring adult, are attending school regularly, and have the supports they need, they are more likely to be successful in school and in life. Establishing a building point of contact will support coordination of resources and facilitate compliance with state and federal laws related to students in foster care.

Summary of Changes

- Each K–12 public school in the state must establish a building point of contact in each elementary school, middle school, and high school.
- These points of contact must be appointed by the principal, in consultation with the district foster care liaison, and are responsible for coordinating services and resources for students in foster care.

- The district foster care liaison is responsible for training building points of contact.
- OSPI shall make available best practices for choosing and training building points of contact.

RESOURCES

- [SB 5184 Legislative Documents](#)
- [OSPI Building Points of Contact Training](#)
 - [PowerPoint](#)
 - [YouTube Recording](#)
- [OSPI Foster Care Education Webpage](#)

INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

For questions regarding this bulletin, please contact Peggy Carlson, OSPI Foster Care 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.

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Student Engagement and Support

CR:pc

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