

HB 2220: Volunteering in schools after a criminal conviction

WDA and WACDL support this bill as it ensures that a parent, legal guardian, or grandparent, who has been issued a document demonstrating innocence, pardon, expungement, and other forms of rehabilitation, cannot be denied on the basis of their past criminal convictions to volunteer in their child's schools. It creates a consistent process to be used by schools in assessing a parent who is not eligible to pursue those documents or who has not yet received such a document and an appeals process for those denied. Washington's schools should prioritize parental volunteering for the children who have experienced parental incarceration.

We support that this bill provides:

- A statewide, uniform process of acknowledging rehabilitation for parents with past convictions, where they have addressed those issues.
- A uniform standard for approving or denying parental volunteers taking into account the special role and value of parents to their child's educational success.

We propose the bill include a mandate to the Office of Superintended of Public instruction (OSPI) to maintain:

- A public clearinghouse for the details and forms necessary for parental volunteering for every public school district in the state. The resource should not only be available on-line, but should be available upon request via mail.

For more information, contact:

Neil Beaver: 509-979-9550 or neil.beaver@gmail.com; or

D'Adre Cunningham: (206) 623-4321 or DAdre@defensenet.org