
SENATE BILL 5742

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Senators Palumbo, Frockt, Rolfes, Kuderer, and Saldaña

Read first time 02/07/17. Referred to Committee on Human Services,
Mental Health & Housing.

1 AN ACT Relating to working connections child care eligibility for
2 applicants or consumers enrolled in programs that will lead to a
3 baccalaureate degree; and amending RCW 43.215.135.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.215.135 and 2015 3rd sp.s. c 7 s 6 are each
6 amended to read as follows:

7 (1) The department shall establish and implement policies in the
8 working connections child care program to promote stability and
9 quality of care for children from low-income households. These
10 policies shall focus on supporting school readiness for young
11 learners. Policies for the expenditure of funds constituting the
12 working connections child care program must be consistent with the
13 outcome measures defined in RCW 74.08A.410 and the standards
14 established in this section intended to promote stability, quality,
15 and continuity of early care and education programming.

16 (2) As recommended by Public Law 113-186, authorizations for the
17 working connections child care subsidy shall be effective for twelve
18 months beginning July 1, 2016, unless an earlier date is provided in
19 the omnibus appropriations act.

1 (3) Existing child care providers serving nonschool-age children
2 and receiving state subsidy payments must complete the following
3 requirements to be eligible for a state subsidy under this section:

4 (a) Enroll in the early achievers program by August 1, 2016;

5 (b) Complete level 2 activities in the early achievers program by
6 August 1, 2017; and

7 (c) Rate at a level 3 or higher in the early achievers program by
8 December 31, 2019. If a child care provider rates below a level 3 by
9 December 31, 2019, the provider must complete remedial activities
10 with the department, and rate at a level 3 or higher no later than
11 June 30, 2020.

12 (4) Effective July 1, 2016, a new child care provider serving
13 nonschool-age children and receiving state subsidy payments must
14 complete the following activities to be eligible to receive a state
15 subsidy under this section:

16 (a) Enroll in the early achievers program within thirty days of
17 receiving the initial state subsidy payment;

18 (b) Complete level 2 activities in the early achievers program
19 within twelve months of enrollment; and

20 (c) Rate at a level 3 or higher in the early achievers program
21 within thirty months of enrollment. If a child care provider rates
22 below a level 3 within thirty months from enrollment into the early
23 achievers program, the provider must complete remedial activities
24 with the department, and rate at a level 3 or higher within six
25 months of beginning remedial activities.

26 (5) If a child care provider does not rate at a level 3 or higher
27 following the remedial period, the provider is no longer eligible to
28 receive state subsidy under this section.

29 (6) If a child care provider serving nonschool-age children and
30 receiving state subsidy payments has successfully completed all level
31 2 activities and is waiting to be rated by the deadline provided in
32 this section, the provider may continue to receive a state subsidy
33 pending the successful completion of the level 3 rating activity.

34 (7) The department shall implement tiered reimbursement for early
35 achievers program participants in the working connections child care
36 program rating at level 3, 4, or 5.

37 (8) The department shall account for a child care copayment
38 collected by the provider from the family for each contracted slot
39 and establish the copayment fee by rule.

1 (9) The department shall establish and implement policies in the
2 working connections child care program to allow eligibility for an
3 applicant or consumer not participating in the WorkFirst program who
4 is enrolled in a program that will lead to a baccalaureate degree
5 offered by an institution of higher education that receives a state
6 need grant.

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