
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6253

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education (originally sponsored by Senators Wilson, C., Billig, Wellman, Kuderer, Randall, Salomon, Conway, Das, Nguyen, Darneille, and Hunt)

READ FIRST TIME 01/28/20.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a comprehensive statewide early care
2 and education system by improving accessibility and affordability of
3 early care and education programs for families; amending RCW
4 43.216.555, 43.216.556, 43.216.505, 43.216.514, 43.216.512,
5 43.216.675, 43.216.680, and 43.216.710; reenacting and amending RCW
6 43.216.010 and 43.216.135; adding new sections to chapter 43.216 RCW;
7 adding a new section to chapter 28A.310 RCW; creating new sections;
8 making appropriations; and providing expiration dates.

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

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** SHORT TITLE. This act may be known and
11 cited as the early care and education act.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** INTENT. (1) The legislature finds that
13 quality early care and education builds the foundation for a child's
14 success in school and in life. The legislature recognizes that it is
15 essential that all Washington children start life with a solid
16 foundation for success, based on strong families and with adequate
17 supports to ensure equitable opportunity to thrive.

18 (2) The legislature finds that child care is a sector of critical
19 importance to the economic security and future of Washington state.
20 The legislature acknowledges that the department of commerce has

1 found that turnover costs alone due to child care challenges cost
2 Washington's economy two billion one hundred million in 2017. The
3 legislature finds that employers benefit when parents have access to
4 high quality child care through increased workplace productivity and
5 by better preparing the workforce of the future. The legislature
6 recognizes that access to quality early care and education can lead
7 to improved statewide well-being including future crime prevention,
8 improved public health, and increased economic vitality.

9 (3) The legislature recognizes that a commitment to improve
10 system quality in early learning programs was established through
11 passage of the early start act, chapter 7, Laws of 2015 3rd sp. sess.
12 The legislature finds that while overall program quality has
13 improved, access remains limited and many Washington children still
14 enter kindergarten without the foundational skills they need to be
15 successful. The legislature finds that national research suggests
16 that children who start kindergarten behind their peers face ongoing
17 challenges throughout their K-12 education and beyond. The
18 legislature further finds that empirical evidence supports the
19 conclusion that access to high quality programs consistently yield
20 more positive outcomes both inside and outside of the classroom for
21 children.

22 (4) The legislature declares that when parents work or go to
23 school, high quality early learning opportunities should be available
24 and accessible for their children. The legislature acknowledges that,
25 in order to support families in Washington's early care and education
26 system, implementation of programs must include specific program
27 considerations to ensure inclusion of Washington's culturally and
28 linguistically diverse populations as well as all geographic regions
29 of the state. The legislature recognizes that there are barriers to
30 accessing supports and systems for both families and early learning
31 providers whose primary language is not English. The legislature
32 acknowledges the challenges created by a network of programs lacking
33 a central structure or access point. The legislature declares that
34 parental choice is a guiding principle for early learning services
35 and programs, which should be designed to meet the needs of families
36 and communities. The legislature further recognizes the importance of
37 parental choice in the context of care given by family, friends, and
38 neighbors.

39 (5) The legislature recognizes that no system of early care and
40 education can exist without a workforce of providers dedicated to the

1 well-being of Washington's children. The legislature finds that child
2 care providers across the state are unable to recruit and retain a
3 qualified workforce due to insufficient resources. The legislature
4 understands the need for living-wage employment opportunities as well
5 as career-oriented professional development.

6 (6) The legislature recognizes the value of a world-class early
7 care and education system available to all families and children. The
8 legislature intends to address persistent educational opportunity
9 gaps by increasing support for programs that help children become
10 ready to enter the common school system by age five. The legislature
11 recognizes the need for high quality early learning programs beyond
12 entry in the common school system and the need for care and learning
13 after school and in the summer for children and working families. The
14 legislature intends to align early learning services and programs
15 into a high quality continuum of care and education available to all
16 children and families. The legislature, therefore, resolves to create
17 an early care and education system for all by increasing the
18 availability and affordability of high quality early learning
19 opportunities. The legislature further resolves to make available a
20 tiered system of services and programs based upon need and
21 coordinated to increase accessibility for Washington families. The
22 legislature further resolves to address current systemic inadequacies
23 including caregiver workforce and supply, education services for
24 parents of young children ages birth through three, and services,
25 supports, and resources for families with children prenatal to age
26 twelve.

27 **PART I**

28 **AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE PRESCHOOL**

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 101.** INTENT. (1) The legislature finds that
30 the early childhood education and assistance program meets a pressing
31 need by providing education and care services to Washington's
32 children and families. The legislature recognizes that the early
33 childhood education and assistance program serves students who are
34 eligible for special education and the importance of fostering
35 inclusive classrooms. The legislature acknowledges that the
36 department of children, youth, and families' annual outcomes study
37 has found that children enrolled in the early childhood education and
38 assistance program demonstrate significant progress in educational

1 attainment. The legislature further finds that the Washington state
2 institute for public policy has also found that children who attended
3 an early childhood education and assistance program had significantly
4 higher math and reading test scores in third, fourth, and fifth
5 grades compared to similar children who did not attend the program
6 and that the early childhood education and assistance program
7 produces four dollars and seventy-five cents of benefits for every
8 dollar invested.

9 (2) The legislature finds that not all families in need of early
10 learning services also need comprehensive wraparound services and
11 that family choice demands that the state offer tiers of services
12 based upon need. The legislature finds that family income eligibility
13 limits present a barrier to thousands of families across Washington
14 state in need of early learning services. The legislature further
15 finds that inadequate compensation for prekindergarten educators has
16 led to a decline in workforce and therefore a decline in access,
17 especially in rural communities throughout the state.

18 (3) The legislature finds that dual language learners represent a
19 significant and growing share of children birth to five in Washington
20 state. The legislature finds that studies affirm that dual language
21 programs are especially beneficial for dual language learners in
22 developing the building blocks for early literacy, numeracy skills,
23 and English language development.

24 (4) The legislature resolves to expand existing early childhood
25 education and assistance program services to create a statewide
26 system of preschool education that is affordable and accessible to
27 Washington families.

28 **Sec. 102.** RCW 43.216.555 and 2019 c 408 s 9 are each amended to
29 read as follows:

30 EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. (1) An early
31 learning program to provide voluntary preschool opportunities for
32 children ages three to five years old who are not age-eligible for
33 kindergarten shall be implemented according to the funding and
34 implementation plan in RCW 43.216.556. The program must offer a
35 comprehensive program of early childhood education and family
36 support, including parental involvement and health information,
37 screening, and referral services, based on family need. Participation
38 in the program, including the comprehensive services, is strictly
39 voluntary. (~~On a space available basis, the program may allow~~

1 ~~enrollment of children who are not otherwise eligible by assessing a~~
2 ~~fee.)~~)

3 (2) The program shall be implemented by utilizing the program
4 standards and eligibility criteria in the early childhood education
5 and assistance program in RCW 43.216.500 through 43.216.550.

6 (3) (a) A family may be required to make a tuition copayment
7 directly to the provider according to the schedule established in
8 section 106 of this act.

9 (b) The early childhood education and assistance program provider
10 shall conduct a family assessment to determine which, if any,
11 comprehensive services are needed for the child and family. The
12 provider is not required to offer all comprehensive services if it is
13 determined that the child and family would not benefit from the
14 services. Minimum classroom instructional hours must be met as
15 outlined in the provider's contract with the department.

16 (4) (a) The program implementation in this section shall
17 prioritize early childhood education and assistance programs located
18 in low-income neighborhoods within high-need geographical areas.

19 (b) Following the priority in (a) of this subsection, preference
20 shall be given to programs meeting at least one of the following
21 characteristics:

22 (i) Programs offering an extended day program for early care and
23 education;

24 (ii) Programs offering services to children diagnosed with a
25 special need; or

26 (iii) Programs offering services to children involved in the
27 child welfare system.

28 ~~((4))~~ (5) The secretary shall adopt rules for the following
29 program components, as appropriate and necessary during the phased
30 implementation of the program, consistent with early achievers
31 program standards established in RCW 43.216.085:

32 (a) Minimum program standards;

33 (b) Approval of program providers; and

34 (c) Accountability and adherence to performance standards.

35 ~~((5))~~ (6) The department has administrative responsibility for:

36 (a) Approving and contracting with providers according to rules
37 developed by the secretary under this section;

38 (b) In partnership with school districts, monitoring program
39 quality and assuring the program is responsive to the needs of
40 eligible children;

1 (c) Assuring that program providers work cooperatively with
2 school districts to coordinate the transition from preschool to
3 kindergarten so that children and their families are well-prepared
4 and supported; and

5 (d) Providing technical assistance to contracted providers.

6 **Sec. 103.** RCW 43.216.556 and 2019 c 408 s 3 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

8 ENTITLEMENT. (1) Funding for the program of early learning
9 established under this chapter must be appropriated to the
10 department. The department shall distribute funding to approved early
11 childhood education and assistance program contractors on the basis
12 of eligible children enrolled.

13 (2) The program shall be implemented in phases, so that full
14 implementation is achieved in the ((2022-23)) 2027-28 school year.

15 (3) Funding shall continue to be phased in each year until full
16 statewide implementation of the early learning program is achieved in
17 the ((2022-23)) 2027-28 school year, at which time any eligible child
18 is entitled to be enrolled in the program.

19 (4) School districts and approved community-based early learning
20 providers may contract with the department to provide services under
21 the program. The department shall collaborate with school districts,
22 community-based providers, and educational service districts to
23 promote an adequate supply of approved providers.

24 **Sec. 104.** RCW 43.216.505 and 2019 c 408 s 2 are each amended to
25 read as follows:

26 ENTITLEMENT ELIGIBILITY. Unless the context clearly requires
27 otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout RCW
28 43.216.500 through 43.216.559, 43.216.900, and 43.216.901.

29 (1) "Advisory committee" means the advisory committee under RCW
30 43.216.520.

31 (2) "Approved programs" means those state-supported education and
32 special assistance programs which are recognized by the department as
33 meeting the minimum program rules adopted by the department to
34 qualify under RCW 43.216.500 through 43.216.550, 43.216.900, and
35 43.216.901 and are designated as eligible for funding by the
36 department under RCW 43.216.530 and 43.216.540.

1 (3) "Comprehensive" means an assistance program that focuses on
2 the needs of the child and includes education, health including
3 behavioral and mental health, and family support services.

4 (4) "Eligible child" means a three to five-year old child who is
5 not age-eligible for kindergarten, is not a participant in a federal
6 or state program providing comprehensive services, and who:

7 (a) ~~Has a family ((income at or below one hundred ten percent of~~
8 ~~the federal poverty level, as published annually by the federal~~
9 ~~department of health and human services))~~ with financial need as
10 defined in this section;

11 (b) Is eligible for special education due to disability under RCW
12 28A.155.020; ~~((~~or~~))~~

13 (c) Is homeless;

14 (d) Meets criteria under rules adopted by the department if the
15 number of such children equals not more than ten percent of the total
16 enrollment in the early childhood program. Preference for enrollment
17 in this group shall be given to children from families with the
18 lowest income, children in foster care, or to eligible children from
19 families with multiple needs; or

20 (e) Beginning in the 2028-29 school year, is Indian as defined in
21 rule by the department after consultation and agreement with tribes
22 as described in section 105 of this act.

23 (5) "Family support services" means providing opportunities for
24 parents to:

25 (a) Actively participate in their child's early childhood
26 program;

27 (b) Increase their knowledge of child development and parenting
28 skills;

29 (c) Further their education and training; and

30 (d) Increase their ability to use needed services in the
31 community(~~(~~+~~~~

32 ~~(e) Increase their self-reliance))~~.

33 (6) "Family with financial need" means families who demonstrate
34 financial need as follows:

35 (a) In the 2020-21, 2021-22, and 2022-23 school years, families
36 with incomes at or below forty percent of the state median income,
37 adjusted for family size;

38 (b) In the 2023-24 school year, families with incomes at or below
39 fifty percent of the state median income, adjusted for family size;

1 (c) In the 2024-25 school year, families with incomes at or below
2 fifty-five percent of the state median income, adjusted for family
3 size;

4 (d) In the 2025-26 school year, families with incomes at or below
5 sixty percent of the state median income, adjusted for family size;

6 (e) In the 2026-27 school year, families with incomes at or below
7 sixty-five percent of the state median income, adjusted for family
8 size;

9 (f) Beginning in the 2027-28 school year, families with incomes
10 at or below seventy percent of the state median income, adjusted for
11 family size.

12 (7) "Homeless" means without a fixed, regular, and adequate
13 nighttime residence as set forth in the federal McKinney-Vento
14 homeless assistance act (101 Stat. 485; 42 U.S.C. Sec. 11301 et
15 seq.).

16 (8) "State median income" is based on the chart published
17 annually by the department of social and health services.

18 NEW SECTION. Sec. 105. (1) The department of children, youth,
19 and families must consult, and obtain the advice and consent of, the
20 governing bodies of the state's federally recognized tribal nations
21 in developing an agreed upon definition of the term "Indian" for the
22 purposes of RCW 43.216.505 and, by July 1, 2023, must adopt the
23 definition in rule.

24 (2) This section expires December 1, 2028.

25 NEW SECTION. Sec. 106. A new section is added to chapter 43.216
26 RCW to read as follows:

27 COPAYMENT. (1) Subject to the availability of amounts
28 appropriated for this specific purpose, beginning in the 2028-29
29 school year, families with incomes above seventy percent of the state
30 median income, adjusted for family size, may enroll in the early
31 childhood education and assistance program, as space is available, if
32 the families pay a tuition copayment according to the following
33 schedule:

If a family's income is:	Then the family's copayment is:
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Above seventy percent and up to eighty percent of the state median income	Seven percent of the family's gross income
Above eighty percent and up to ninety percent of the state median income	Eight percent of the family's gross income
Above ninety percent and up to one hundred percent of the state median income	Nine percent of the family's gross income
Above one hundred percent of the state median income	Ten percent of the family's gross income

(2) The department shall prioritize children for enrollment in the early childhood education and assistance program who are eligible pursuant to RCW 43.216.505.

(3) Families with a child enrolled in the early childhood education and assistance program under this section and receiving working connections child care benefits for that child shall pay only one copayment for that child.

(4) For each family above one hundred percent of the state median income who has a copayment higher than the slot rate payment, the early childhood education and assistance program provider shall only receive the copayment.

(5) Children enrolled in the early childhood education and assistance program under this section are not considered eligible children as defined in RCW 43.216.505 and are not considered to be part of the state-funded entitlement required in RCW 43.216.556.

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 107.** (1) By December 1, 2020, the department of children, youth, and families must submit to the governor and the appropriate committees of the legislature recommendations on the feasibility of using area median income to determine eligibility for the early childhood education and assistance program and the working connections child care program. The department must consider other eligibility measures that account for urban and rural communities.

(2) This section expires August 1, 2021.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 108.** A new section is added to chapter 43.216
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 INCLUSIVE CLASSROOMS. (1) Subject to the availability of amounts
4 appropriated for this specific purpose, the department must partner
5 with the office of the superintendent of public instruction to
6 develop guidance on placing children who are eligible for special
7 education due to a disability under RCW 28A.155.020 in early
8 childhood education and assistance program classrooms as a least
9 restrictive environment in a student's individualized education
10 program.

11 (2) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
12 specific purpose, the department must support professional
13 development in inclusionary and antibias practices for early
14 childhood education and assistance program classrooms and child care
15 centers and family home providers with a focus on understanding
16 behavior as communication and collaborative problem solving, and
17 promoting membership, belonging, social-emotional development, and
18 learning.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 109.** A new section is added to chapter 43.216
20 RCW to read as follows:

21 DUAL LANGUAGE CLASSROOMS. (1) Subject to the availability of
22 amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the department must
23 partner with the office of the superintendent of public instruction
24 to align dual language program implementation and workforce
25 development planning.

26 (2) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
27 specific purpose, the department must support professional
28 development for dual language programming for early childhood
29 education and assistance program classrooms and culturally and
30 linguistically appropriate practices for early childhood education
31 and assistance program providers, child care providers, and family,
32 friend, and neighbor caregivers.

33 **Sec. 110.** RCW 43.216.514 and 2019 c 408 s 7 are each amended to
34 read as follows:

35 CONFORMING AMENDMENTS. (1) The department shall prioritize
36 children for enrollment in the early childhood education and
37 assistance program who are eligible pursuant to RCW 43.216.505.

1 (2) As space is available, children may be included in the early
2 childhood education and assistance program pursuant to RCW
3 43.216.512. (~~Priority within this group must be given first to~~
4 ~~children with incomes up to one hundred thirty percent of the federal~~
5 ~~poverty level.~~)

6 **Sec. 111.** RCW 43.216.512 and 2019 c 409 s 2 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

8 CONFORMING AMENDMENTS. (1) The department shall adopt rules that
9 allow the enrollment of children in the early childhood education and
10 assistance program, as space is available if the number of such
11 children equals not more than twenty-five percent of total statewide
12 enrollment, whose family income is(~~÷~~

13 ~~(a) Above one hundred ten percent but less than or equal to one~~
14 ~~hundred thirty percent of the federal poverty level; or~~

15 ~~(b) Above one hundred thirty percent but less than or equal to~~
16 ~~two hundred percent of the federal poverty level if the child meets~~
17 ~~at least one of the risk factor criterion described in subsection (2)~~
18 ~~of this section)) above the income levels described in RCW
19 43.216.505(6) and the child meets at least one of the risk factors
20 criterion described in subsection (2) of this section.~~

21 (2) Children enrolled in the early childhood education and
22 assistance program pursuant to subsection (1) (~~(b)~~) of this section
23 must be prioritized for available funded slots according to a
24 prioritization system adopted in rule by the department that
25 considers risk factors that have a disproportionate effect on
26 kindergarten readiness and school performance, including:

27 (a) Family income as a percent of the (~~federal poverty level~~)
28 state median income;

29 (b) Homelessness;

30 (c) Child welfare system involvement;

31 (d) Developmental delay or disability that does not meet the
32 eligibility criteria for special education described in RCW
33 28A.155.020;

34 (e) Domestic violence;

35 (f) English as a second language;

36 (g) Expulsion from an early learning setting;

37 (h) A parent who is incarcerated;

38 (i) A parent with a substance use disorder or mental health
39 treatment need; and

1 (j) Other risk factors determined by the department to be linked
2 by research to school performance.

3 (3) The department shall adopt rules that allow a child to enroll
4 in the early childhood education and assistance program, as space is
5 available, when the child is not eligible under RCW 43.216.505 and
6 the child turns three years old at any time during the school year
7 when the child:

8 (a) Has a family income at or below (~~two hundred~~) seventy-five
9 percent of the (~~federal poverty level~~) state median income or meets
10 at least one risk factor criterion adopted by the department in rule;
11 and

12 (b) Has received services from or participated in:

13 (i) The early support for infants and toddlers program;

14 (ii) The early head start or a successor federal program
15 providing comprehensive services for children from birth through two
16 years of age; or

17 (iii) The birth to three early childhood education and assistance
18 program, if such a program is established.

19 (4) Children enrolled in the early childhood education and
20 assistance program under this section are not considered eligible
21 children as defined in RCW 43.216.505 and are not considered to be
22 part of the state-funded entitlement required in RCW 43.216.556.

23 **Sec. 112.** RCW 43.216.010 and 2017 3rd sp.s. c 6 s 201 are each
24 reenacted and amended to read as follows:

25 CONFORMING AMENDMENTS. The definitions in this section apply
26 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires
27 otherwise.

28 (1) "Agency" means any person, firm, partnership, association,
29 corporation, or facility that provides child care and early learning
30 services outside a child's own home and includes the following
31 irrespective of whether there is compensation to the agency:

32 (a) "Child care center" and "child day care center" means an
33 agency that regularly provides early childhood education and early
34 learning services for a group of children for periods of less than
35 twenty-four hours;

36 (b) "Early learning" includes but is not limited to programs and
37 services for child care; state, federal, private, and nonprofit
38 preschool; child care subsidies; child care resource and referral;

1 parental education and support; and training and professional
2 development for early learning professionals;

3 (c) "Family home provider" and "family day care provider" means a
4 child care provider who regularly provides early childhood education
5 and early learning services for not more than twelve children in the
6 provider's home in the family living quarters;

7 (d) "Nongovernmental private-public partnership" means an entity
8 registered as a nonprofit corporation in Washington state with a
9 primary focus on early learning, school readiness, and parental
10 support, and an ability to raise a minimum of five million dollars in
11 contributions;

12 (e) "Service provider" means the entity that operates a community
13 facility.

14 (2) "Agency" does not include the following:

15 (a) Persons related to the child in the following ways:

16 (i) Any blood relative, including those of half-blood, and
17 including first cousins, nephews or nieces, and persons of preceding
18 generations as denoted by prefixes of grand, great, or great-great;

19 (ii) Stepfather, stepmother, stepbrother, and stepsister;

20 (iii) A person who legally adopts a child or the child's parent
21 as well as the natural and other legally adopted children of such
22 persons, and other relatives of the adoptive parents in accordance
23 with state law; or

24 (iv) Spouses of any persons named in (a)(i), (ii), or (iii) of
25 this subsection, even after the marriage is terminated;

26 (b) Persons who are legal guardians of the child;

27 (c) Persons who care for a neighbor's or friend's child or
28 children, with or without compensation, where the person providing
29 care for periods of less than twenty-four hours does not conduct such
30 activity on an ongoing, regularly scheduled basis for the purpose of
31 engaging in business, which includes, but is not limited to,
32 advertising such care;

33 (d) Parents on a mutually cooperative basis exchange care of one
34 another's children;

35 (e) Nursery schools that are engaged primarily in early childhood
36 education with preschool children and in which no child is enrolled
37 on a regular basis for more than four hours per day;

38 (f) Schools, including boarding schools, that are engaged
39 primarily in education, operate on a definite school year schedule,

1 follow a stated academic curriculum, and accept only school age
2 children;

3 (g) Seasonal camps of three months' or less duration engaged
4 primarily in recreational or educational activities;

5 (h) Facilities providing child care for periods of less than
6 twenty-four hours when a parent or legal guardian of the child
7 remains on the premises of the facility for the purpose of
8 participating in:

9 (i) Activities other than employment; or

10 (ii) Employment of up to two hours per day when the facility is
11 operated by a nonprofit entity that also operates a licensed child
12 care program at the same facility in another location or at another
13 facility;

14 (i) Any entity that provides recreational or educational
15 programming for school age children only and the entity meets all of
16 the following requirements:

17 (i) The entity utilizes a drop-in model for programming, where
18 children are able to attend during any or all program hours without a
19 formal reservation;

20 (ii) The entity does not assume responsibility in lieu of the
21 parent, unless for coordinated transportation;

22 (iii) The entity is a local affiliate of a national nonprofit;
23 and

24 (iv) The entity is in compliance with all safety and quality
25 standards set by the associated national agency;

26 (j) A program operated by any unit of local, state, or federal
27 government;

28 (k) A program located within the boundaries of a federally
29 recognized Indian reservation, licensed by the Indian tribe;

30 (l) A program located on a federal military reservation, except
31 where the military authorities request that such agency be subject to
32 the licensing requirements of this chapter;

33 (m) A program that offers early learning and support services,
34 such as parent education, and does not provide child care services on
35 a regular basis.

36 (3) "Applicant" means a person who requests or seeks employment
37 in an agency.

38 (4) "Conviction information" means criminal history record
39 information relating to an incident which has led to a conviction or
40 other disposition adverse to the applicant.

- 1 (5) "Department" means the department of children, youth, and
2 families.
- 3 (6) "Early achievers" means a program that improves the quality
4 of early learning programs and supports and rewards providers for
5 their participation.
- 6 (7) "Early childhood education and assistance program contractor"
7 means an organization that provides early childhood education and
8 assistance program services under a signed contract with the
9 department.
- 10 (8) "Early childhood education and assistance program provider"
11 means an organization that provides site level, direct, and high
12 quality early childhood education and assistance program services
13 under the direction of an early childhood education and assistance
14 program contractor.
- 15 (9) "Early start" means an integrated high quality continuum of
16 early learning programs for children birth-to-five years of age.
17 Components of early start include, but are not limited to, the
18 following:
- 19 (a) Home visiting and parent education and support programs;
20 (b) The early achievers program described in RCW 43.216.085;
21 (c) Integrated full-day and part-day high quality early learning
22 programs; and
23 (d) High quality preschool for children (~~whose family income is~~
24 ~~at or below one hundred ten percent of the federal poverty level~~)
25 who have a family with financial need, as defined in RCW 43.216.505.
- 26 (10) "Education data center" means the education data center
27 established in RCW 43.41.400, commonly referred to as the education
28 research and data center.
- 29 (11) "Employer" means a person or business that engages the
30 services of one or more people, especially for wages or salary to
31 work in an agency.
- 32 (12) "Enforcement action" means denial, suspension, revocation,
33 modification, or nonrenewal of a license pursuant to RCW
34 43.216.325(1) or assessment of civil monetary penalties pursuant to
35 RCW 43.216.325(3).
- 36 (13) "Extended day program" means an early childhood education
37 and assistance program that offers early learning education for at
38 least ten hours per day, a minimum of two thousand hours per year, at
39 least four days per week, and operates year-round.

1 (14) "Full day program" means an early childhood education and
2 assistance program that offers early learning education for a minimum
3 of one thousand hours per year.

4 (15) "Low-income child care provider" means a person who
5 administers a child care program that consists of at least eighty
6 percent of children receiving working connections child care subsidy.

7 (16) "Low-income neighborhood" means a district or community
8 where more than twenty percent of households are below the federal
9 poverty level.

10 (17) "Negative action" means a court order, court judgment, or an
11 adverse action taken by an agency, in any state, federal, tribal, or
12 foreign jurisdiction, which results in a finding against the
13 applicant reasonably related to the individual's character,
14 suitability, and competence to care for or have unsupervised access
15 to children in child care. This may include, but is not limited to:

16 (a) A decision issued by an administrative law judge;

17 (b) A final determination, decision, or finding made by an agency
18 following an investigation;

19 (c) An adverse agency action, including termination, revocation,
20 or denial of a license or certification, or if pending adverse agency
21 action, the voluntary surrender of a license, certification, or
22 contract in lieu of the adverse action;

23 (d) A revocation, denial, or restriction placed on any
24 professional license; or

25 (e) A final decision of a disciplinary board.

26 (18) "Nonconviction information" means arrest, founded
27 allegations of child abuse, or neglect pursuant to chapter 26.44 RCW,
28 or other negative action adverse to the applicant.

29 (19) "Nonschool-age child" means a child who is age six years or
30 younger and who is not enrolled in a public or private school.

31 (20) "Part day program" means an early childhood education and
32 assistance program that offers early learning education for at least
33 two and one-half hours per class session, at least three hundred
34 twenty hours per year, for a minimum of thirty weeks per year.

35 (21) "Private school" means a private school approved by the
36 state under chapter 28A.195 RCW.

37 (22) "Probationary license" means a license issued as a
38 disciplinary measure to an agency that has previously been issued a
39 full license but is out of compliance with licensing standards.

1 (23) "Requirement" means any rule, regulation, or standard of
2 care to be maintained by an agency.

3 (24) "School age child" means a child who is five years of age
4 through twelve years of age and is attending a public or private
5 school or is receiving home-based instruction under chapter 28A.200
6 RCW.

7 (25) "Secretary" means the secretary of the department.

8 (26) "Washington state preschool program" means an education
9 program for children three-to-five years of age who have not yet
10 entered kindergarten, such as the early childhood education and
11 assistance program.

12 PART II

13 AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE QUALITY CHILD CARE

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 201.** INTENT. (1) The legislature finds that
15 child care costs represent a large financial burden for parents of
16 young children. The legislature acknowledges that the cost of full-
17 time, center-based infant care averages over thirteen thousand
18 dollars per year in Washington. The legislature further acknowledges
19 that given the financial pressure experienced by low and middle-
20 income parents, both married and single, assistance with paying for
21 quality child care services could dramatically improve their economic
22 resiliency and disrupt intergenerational poverty. The legislature
23 recognizes that research and studies show that investment in high
24 quality child care for those lacking access could benefit communities
25 statewide through future crime reduction and public health savings.

26 (2) The legislature intends to expand the existing working
27 connections child care program to create a statewide program of
28 subsidized child care for birth through age twelve that is affordable
29 and accessible to all Washington families.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 202.** A new section is added to chapter 43.216
31 RCW to read as follows:

32 WORKING CONNECTIONS CHILD CARE COPAYMENT. (1) Subject to the
33 availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the
34 department shall establish and implement policies in the working
35 connections child care program to allow eligibility for applicants
36 and consumers who pay a copayment in accordance with the schedules in
37 this section.

(2) In addition to other eligibility requirements, the department shall calculate the applicant's or consumer's copayment, adjusted for family size, in accordance with this section, whether care is provided under a working connections child care voucher or contract.

(a) Beginning July 1, 2021:

If an applicant's or consumer's income is:	Then the applicant's or consumer's copayment is:
At or below twenty-five percent of the state median income	\$15 or seven percent of the applicant's or consumer's gross income, whichever is less
Above twenty-five percent and up to forty percent of the state median income	\$65 or seven percent of the applicant's or consumer's gross income, whichever is less
Above forty percent and up to fifty percent of the state median income	\$115 or seven percent of the applicant's or consumer's gross income, whichever is less

(b) Beginning July 1, 2022:

If an applicant's or consumer's income is:	Then the applicant's or consumer's copayment is:
Above fifty percent and up to sixty percent of the state median income	\$165 or seven percent of the applicant's or consumer's gross income, whichever is less
Above sixty percent and up to seventy percent of the state median income	\$215 or seven percent of the applicant's or consumer's gross income, whichever is less

(c) Beginning July 1, 2023:

If an applicant's or consumer's income is:	Then the applicant's or consumer's copayment is:
Above seventy percent and up to eighty percent of the state median income	Seven percent of the applicant's or consumer's gross income

1 (d) Beginning July 1, 2024:

2 If an applicant's or 3 consumer's income is:	Then the applicant's or consumer's copayment is:
4 Above eighty percent and 5 up to ninety percent of the 6 state median income	Eight percent of the applicant's or consumer's gross income

7 (e) Beginning July 1, 2025:

8 If an applicant's or 9 consumer's income is:	Then the applicant's or consumer's copayment is:
10 Above ninety percent and 11 up to one hundred percent 12 of the state median income	Nine percent of the applicant's or consumer's gross income

13 (f) Beginning July 1, 2026:

14 If an applicant's or 15 consumer's income is:	Then the applicant's or consumer's copayment is:
16 Above one hundred 17 percent of the state median 18 income	Ten percent of the applicant's or consumer's gross income

19 (3) For each applicant or consumer above one hundred percent of
20 the state median income who has a copayment higher than the subsidy
21 payment, the child care provider shall only receive the copayment.

22 **Sec. 203.** RCW 43.216.135 and 2019 c 406 s 70 and 2019 c 369 s 4
23 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

24 WORKING CONNECTIONS CHILD CARE POLICIES. (1) The department shall
25 establish and implement policies in the working connections child
26 care program to promote stability and quality of care for Washington
27 children (~~((from low-income households))~~). These policies shall focus
28 on supporting school readiness for young learners. Policies for the
29 expenditure of funds constituting the working connections child care
30 program must be consistent with the outcome measures established by
31 the department and the standards established in this section intended
32 to promote stability, quality, and continuity of early care and
33 education programming.

34 (2) (~~((As recommended by Public Law 113-186, authorizations))~~)
35 Authorizations for the working connections child care subsidy shall

1 be effective for twelve months beginning July 1, 2016(~~(, unless an~~
2 ~~earlier date is provided in the omnibus appropriations act)~~).

3 (3) Existing child care providers serving nonschool-age children
4 (~~and receiving~~) and that received a state subsidy payment(~~(s)~~)
5 between July 1, 2015, and June 30, 2016, must (~~complete the~~
6 ~~following requirements to be eligible for a state subsidy under this~~
7 ~~section:~~

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

9 ~~(b) Complete level 2 activities in the early achievers program by~~
10 ~~August 1, 2017; and~~

11 ~~(c) Rate~~) rate or request to be rated at a level 3 or higher in
12 the early achievers program by December 31, 2019. If a child care
13 provider does not rate at or request to be rated at a level 3 by
14 December 31, 2019, the provider is no longer eligible to receive
15 state subsidy. If the provider rates below a level 3 when the rating
16 is released, the provider must complete remedial activities with the
17 department, and must rate at or request to be rated at a level 3 or
18 higher no later than December 30, 2020.

19 (4) A new child care provider serving nonschool-age children and
20 receiving state subsidy payments on or after July 1, 2016, and that
21 did not receive a subsidy payment between July 1, 2015, and June 30,
22 2016, must complete the following activities to be eligible to
23 receive a state subsidy under this section:

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

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

28 (c) Rate or request to be rated at a level 3 or higher in the
29 early achievers program within thirty months of enrollment. If a
30 child care provider does not rate or request to be rated at a level 3
31 within thirty months from enrollment into the early achievers
32 program, the provider is no longer eligible to receive state subsidy.
33 If the provider rates below a level 3 when the rating is released,
34 the provider must complete remedial activities with the department,
35 and rate or request to be rated at a level 3 or higher within twelve
36 months of beginning remedial activities.

37 (5) If a child care provider does not rate or request to be rated
38 at a level 3 or higher following the remedial period, the provider is
39 no longer eligible to receive state subsidy under this section. If a
40 child care provider does not rate at a level 3 or higher when the

1 rating is released following the remedial period, the provider is no
2 longer eligible to receive state subsidy under this section.

3 (6) If a child care provider serving nonschool-age children and
4 receiving state subsidy payments has successfully completed all level
5 2 activities and is waiting to be rated by the deadline provided in
6 this section, the provider may continue to receive a state subsidy
7 pending the successful completion of the level 3 rating activity.

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

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

14 (9)(a) The department shall establish and implement policies in
15 the working connections child care program to allow eligibility for
16 families with children who:

17 (i) In the last six months have:

18 (A) Received child protective services as defined and used by
19 chapters 26.44 and 74.13 RCW;

20 (B) Received child welfare services as defined and used by
21 chapter 74.13 RCW; or

22 (C) Received services through a family assessment response as
23 defined and used by chapter 26.44 RCW;

24 (ii) Have been referred for child care as part of the family's
25 case management as defined by RCW 74.13.020; and

26 (iii) Are residing with a biological parent or guardian.

27 (b) Children who are eligible for working connections child care
28 pursuant to this subsection do not have to keep receiving services
29 identified in this subsection to maintain twelve-month authorization.
30 The department of social and health services' involvement with the
31 family referred for working connections child care ends when the
32 family's child protective services, child welfare services, or family
33 assessment response case is closed.

34 (10)(a) Beginning August 1, 2020, the department may not require
35 an applicant or consumer to meet work requirements as a condition of
36 receiving working connections child care benefits when the applicant
37 or consumer is:

38 (i) A (~~single~~) parent;

39 (ii) A full-time student of a community, technical, or tribal
40 college; and

1 (iii) Pursuing (~~vocational education that leads to a degree or~~
2 ~~certificate in a specific occupation, not to result in a bachelor's~~
3 ~~or advanced degree~~) a postsecondary degree or certificate.

4 (b) An applicant or consumer is a full-time student for the
5 purposes of this subsection if he or she meets the college's
6 definition of a full-time student. The student must maintain passing
7 grades and be in good standing pursuant to college attendance
8 requirements.

9 (c) Nothing in this subsection is intended to change how
10 applicants or consumers are prioritized when applicants or consumers
11 are placed on a wait list for working connections child care
12 benefits.

13 **PART III**

14 **TIERED SUPPORTS AND COORDINATION**

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 301.** INTENT. (1) The legislature acknowledges
16 that a pilot project for a countywide resource and referral linkage
17 system for families received funding in chapter 415, Laws of 2019.
18 The legislature intends to build on this pilot project and other
19 existing linkage resources and expand the family resource and
20 referral linkage system statewide.

21 (2) The legislature recognizes that educational service districts
22 have supported and continue to support early learning initiatives
23 throughout the state. The legislature finds that educational service
24 districts provide a critical link between the early learning system
25 and the K-12 educational system. The legislature intends to build on
26 this experience by designating a prekindergarten through third grade
27 systems coordinator at each educational service district to continue
28 to elevate the importance of the development of young children.

29 (3) The legislature finds that a system of early care and
30 education requires flexibility to meet the varying needs of a diverse
31 population. The legislature further finds that not all families
32 require or want comprehensive wraparound services or may prefer a
33 less formal setting with care being provided by family, friends, or
34 neighbors. The legislature intends to prioritize family choice by
35 allowing providers to offer a tiered selection of supports based upon
36 need.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 302.** A new section is added to chapter 43.216
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 FAMILY RESOURCE AND REFERRAL LINKAGE SYSTEM AND CHILD CARE
4 PROVIDER SHARED SERVICES HUBS. (1) The department shall work with
5 cross-sector partners to build a statewide family resource and
6 referral linkage system by 2025 that connects families with children
7 prenatal through age five to appropriate services and community
8 resources. The statewide family resource and referral linkage system
9 must maintain an up-to-date database of services, programs, and
10 community resources available to families in Washington. The
11 statewide family resource and referral linkage system must partner
12 with communities, health care providers, and early learning providers
13 to connect families to resources, services, and programs in which
14 they are eligible. This system must coordinate and leverage the work
15 of the child care provider shared services hubs described in
16 subsection (2) of this section and the statewide child care resource
17 and referral network.

18 (2) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
19 specific purpose, the department shall provide or contract to provide
20 one or more shared services hubs that allow the ongoing pooling and
21 shared use of services by licensed and certified child care centers
22 and family home providers.

23 (a) The shared services hubs may include, but are not limited to,
24 the following services:

25 (i) Shared comprehensive services may include developmental and
26 health screenings, mental health and nurse consultation, health
27 advisory and parent policy councils, assessments for one-on-one
28 behavioral support aides, interpretation and translation services,
29 and coordination with a local or statewide family linkage system that
30 connects families with young children to appropriate community
31 resources and services.

32 (ii) Shared business services may include support with fee
33 collection and financial management, human resources and payroll
34 services, regional substitute pools, and business coaching and
35 training.

36 (iii) Shared pedagogical resources may include leadership
37 development, reflective supervision for child care center
38 administrators, curricula, and training for early achievers coaches.

39 (b) Shared services hubs must be located in different geographic
40 regions of the state and serve diverse demographic groups.

1 (c) By July 1, 2022, the department shall report to the governor
2 and the appropriate committees of the legislature on the
3 effectiveness of the shared services hub model in creating
4 administrative efficiencies, realizing cost savings for child care
5 providers and the department, increasing the responsiveness of
6 providers to the needs of families, and building capacity for
7 inclusive and trauma-informed services. The department must make
8 recommendations for improvements or changes to the shared services
9 hub model and the expansion of the shared services hub model
10 statewide.

11 (3) This section expires December 31, 2025.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 303.** A new section is added to chapter
13 28A.310 RCW to read as follows:

14 PREKINDERGARTEN THROUGH THIRD GRADE SYSTEMS COORDINATORS. (1)
15 Each educational service district must designate a prekindergarten
16 through third grade systems coordinator.

17 (2) At a minimum, each prekindergarten through third grade
18 systems coordinator must:

19 (a) Provide statewide, regional, and local leadership to
20 strengthen and align the transition between the early learning system
21 and the K-12 educational system;

22 (b) Support the equitable expansion of early learning programs
23 and the closing of opportunity gaps for the state's youngest
24 learners;

25 (c) In partnership with the department of children, youth, and
26 families, align regional early learning efforts with other statewide
27 initiatives;

28 (d) In partnership with the office of the superintendent of
29 public instruction, provide support and technical assistance to
30 school districts in the development of high-quality early learning
31 environments and braided funding program models;

32 (e) In conjunction with the family resource and referral linkage
33 system and the child care provider shared services hubs described in
34 section 302 of this act, connect early learning providers, school
35 districts, and other early learning stakeholders to leverage existing
36 resources and expertise;

37 (f) Increase cross-sector coordination of resources and supports,
38 especially for children impacted by trauma;

1 (g) Inform shared professional development opportunities and
2 inform providers with various training and education within the
3 region; and

4 (h) Provide support and technical assistance.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 304.** A new section is added to chapter 43.216
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 FAMILY, FRIEND, AND NEIGHBOR CAREGIVERS. (1) Subject to the
8 availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the
9 department must support family, friend, and neighbor caregivers by:

10 (a) Expanding play and learn groups throughout the state and
11 providing curriculum in additional languages; and

12 (b) Developing models to offer child care health consultations
13 and mental health service in a culturally relevant context with a
14 variety of modalities.

15 (2) The department must provide the supports described in
16 subsection (1) of this section to families involved in the child
17 welfare system and kinship caregivers.

18 **PART IV**

19 **EXPANDING SUPPORT TO PROVIDERS AND PARENTS**

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 401.** INTENT. (1)(a) The legislature
21 recognizes that achieving the desired child outcomes from high
22 quality early care and education programs requires additional
23 financial support, including the payment of a compensation package of
24 living wages and benefits to support a thriving industry of
25 providers. The legislature acknowledges that it established a child
26 care career and wage ladder for licensed child care centers through
27 chapter 507, Laws of 2005. The legislature further acknowledges that
28 it directed a child care workforce development technical work group
29 to develop recommendations to support increased child care workforce
30 wages, reduce turnover, enable child care providers to recruit more
31 qualified educators, and maintain the diversity of the current
32 workforce.

33 (b) The legislature finds that the federal administration of
34 children and families advises states to set child care subsidy rates
35 at the seventy-fifth percentile of private market rates in order to
36 ensure equal access to high quality child care. The legislature
37 acknowledges its commitment to raise rates through passage of chapter

1 369, Laws of 2019 to raise base subsidy rates for licensed child care
2 centers and family home providers to the seventy-fifth percentile of
3 market rates and to further incentivize the provision of care for
4 infants and toddlers by considering supplemental rates for providers
5 serving these young children. The legislature further acknowledges
6 that it directed the department of children, youth, and families to
7 use a child care cost model developed by the child care collaborative
8 task force to determine child care subsidy rates by January 1, 2025,
9 through chapter 368, Laws of 2019.

10 (c) The legislature intends to increase early childhood education
11 and assistance program slots, increase child care subsidy rates to
12 the seventy-fifth percentile, index rates to inflation to ensure
13 stability and longevity for providers statewide, and take a step
14 toward addressing the recommendations of the child care workforce
15 development technical work group.

16 (2) The legislature understands that voluntary early supports for
17 parents of young children through education services show a high
18 return on investment due to significantly improved chances of better
19 education, health, and life outcomes for children. The legislature
20 recognizes that demand for early supports and education far exceeds
21 current resources with only four counties able to serve more than
22 fifteen percent of eligible families. In 2019, the department
23 released a report with ways to expand such services in Washington
24 state. The report was informed by a statewide needs assessment that
25 included focus on a community-by-community analysis of risk factors
26 such as low kindergarten readiness, infant deaths, and domestic
27 violence. The legislature intends to continue to invest to support
28 service to additional eligible and interested families and to
29 increase support to parent and family education and early
30 intervention services to ensure families with young children have the
31 health and safety resources they need to thrive.

32 (3) The legislature finds that, in Washington state, immigrant
33 children whose first language is not English represent a significant
34 part of evolving and more diverse school demographics. The
35 legislature recognizes the need for Washington's early learning
36 workforce to evolve in a manner consistent with changing student
37 demographics to meet the needs of young English learners and to
38 communicate effectively with parents whose first language is not
39 English. The legislature finds it necessary to better serve non-

1 English-speaking children by addressing and closing the significant
2 language gaps that impact young English learners.

3 (4) The legislature recognizes the importance of achieving a high
4 quality, equitable system of expanded learning opportunities. The
5 legislature finds that high quality expanded learning opportunity
6 programs improve attendance and grades while building the social and
7 emotional skills needed to succeed in school and in life. The
8 legislature further finds that quality programs can result in
9 improved academics including attendance, grade point, and math and
10 literacy scores, as well as career pathway skills. The legislature
11 resolves to increase access to community-driven and youth-driven
12 expanded learning opportunities.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 402.** EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND ASSISTANCE
14 PROGRAM SLOT RATES. The sum of sixteen million six hundred thousand
15 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for
16 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, from the general fund to the
17 department of children, youth, and families solely for the purpose of
18 increasing the early childhood education and assistance program slot
19 rates by twelve percent.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 403.** CHILD CARE SUBSIDY RATES. The sum of
21 fifty million dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is
22 appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, from the
23 general fund to the department of children, youth, and families
24 solely for the purpose of increasing subsidy base rates for licensed
25 child care providers to achieve the seventieth percentile of market
26 based on the market rate survey conducted by the department.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 404.** A new section is added to chapter 43.216
28 RCW to read as follows:

29 CHILD CARE SUBSIDY RATES AND INFLATION. (1) Subject to the
30 availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the
31 department shall increase subsidy rates for licensed child care
32 providers as follows:

33 (a) Beginning July 1, 2021, subsidy base rates must achieve the
34 seventy-fifth percentile of market based on the market rate survey
35 conducted by the department.

36 (b) Beginning July 1, 2022, subsidy rates must be based on the
37 child care cost model developed under RCW 43.330.527 and referenced

1 in RCW 43.216.749 unless the child care cost model generates subsidy
2 rates lower than subsidy rates generated by (a) of this subsection.

3 (2) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
4 specific purpose, the department shall adjust subsidy rates according
5 to an inflationary increase in accordance with this section beginning
6 July 1, 2023. The inflationary increase shall be calculated by
7 applying the rate of the yearly increase in the inflationary
8 adjustment index to the market rates established in this section. Any
9 funded inflationary increase must be included in the base rate used
10 to determine inflationary increases in subsequent years. For the
11 purposes of this section, "inflationary adjustment index" means the
12 implicit price deflator for that fiscal year, using the official
13 current base rate, compiled by the bureau of economic analysis,
14 United States department of commerce.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 405.** CAREER AND WAGE LADDER. The sum of ten
16 million dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is
17 appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, from the
18 general fund to the department of children, youth, and families
19 solely for the purpose of implementing the career and wage ladder as
20 described in RCW 43.216.675 and 43.216.680.

21 **Sec. 406.** RCW 43.216.675 and 2006 c 265 s 205 are each amended
22 to read as follows:

23 CAREER AND WAGE LADDER. (1) Subject to the availability of funds
24 appropriated for this specific purpose, the department shall
25 establish a child care career and wage ladder in licensed child care
26 centers and family home providers that meet the following criteria:
27 (a) At least ten percent of child care slots are dedicated to
28 children whose care is subsidized by the state or any political
29 subdivision thereof or any local government; and (b) the center or
30 family home provider agrees to adopt the child care career and wage
31 ladder, which, at a minimum, shall be at the same pay schedule as
32 existed in the previous child care career and wage ladder pilot
33 project (~~(; and (c) the center meets further program standards as~~
34 ~~established by rule pursuant to section 4, chapter 507, Laws of~~
35 ~~2005)).~~

36 The child care career and wage ladder shall include wage
37 increments for levels of education, years of relevant experience,
38 levels of work responsibility, relevant early childhood education

1 credits, and relevant requirements in the state training and registry
2 system.

3 (2) The department shall establish procedures for the allocation
4 of funds to implement the child care career and wage ladder among
5 child care centers and family home providers meeting the criteria
6 identified in subsection (1) of this section. In developing these
7 procedures, the department shall:

8 (a) Review past efforts or administration of the child care
9 career and wage ladder pilot project in order to take advantage of
10 any findings, recommendations, or administrative practices that
11 contributed to that pilot project's success;

12 (b) Consult with stakeholders, including organizations
13 representing child care teachers and providers, in developing an
14 allocation formula that incorporates consideration of geographic and
15 demographic distribution of child care centers and family home
16 providers adopting the child care career and wage ladder; and

17 (c) Develop a system for prioritizing child care centers and
18 family home providers interested in adopting the child care career
19 and wage ladder that is based on the criteria identified in
20 subsection (1) of this section.

21 (3) Notwithstanding the requirements of subsection (2) of this
22 section, child care centers and family home providers meeting the
23 criteria in subsection (1) of this section located in urban areas of
24 the department of social and health services region one shall receive
25 a minimum of fifteen percent of the funds allocated through the child
26 care career and wage ladder, and of these (~~centers~~) child care
27 providers, child care centers meeting the criteria in subsection (1)
28 of this section participating in the Spokane tiered reimbursement
29 pilot project shall have first priority for child care career and
30 wage ladder funding.

31 **Sec. 407.** RCW 43.216.680 and 2013 c 39 s 20 are each amended to
32 read as follows:

33 CAREER AND WAGE LADDER. Child care centers and family home
34 providers adopting the child care career and wage ladder established
35 pursuant to RCW (~~43.215.505~~) 43.216.675 shall increase wages for
36 child care workers who have earned a high school diploma or high
37 school equivalency certificate as provided in RCW 28B.50.536, gain
38 additional years of experience, or accept increasing levels of
39 responsibility in providing child care, in accordance with the child

1 care career and wage ladder. The adoption of a child care career and
2 wage ladder shall not prohibit the provision of wage increases based
3 upon merit. The department shall pay wage increments for child care
4 workers employed by child care centers and family home providers
5 adopting the child care career and wage ladder established pursuant
6 to RCW ((43.215.505)) 43.216.675 who earn early childhood education
7 credits or meet relevant requirements in the state training and
8 registry system, in accordance with the child care career and wage
9 ladder.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 408.** HOME VISITING SERVICES. The sum of eight
11 million dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is
12 appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, from the home
13 visiting services account to the department of children, youth, and
14 families solely for the purpose of contracting for additional home
15 visiting slots.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 409.** A new section is added to chapter 43.216
17 RCW to read as follows:

18 EXPANDING EARLY INTERVENTIONS. (1) Subject to the availability of
19 amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the department shall
20 administer trauma and complex needs programs, such as the early
21 childhood intervention prevention services program, and other early
22 intervention services for children who are:

- 23 (a) Between the ages of birth and five years;
24 (b) Referred by a child welfare worker, a department of social
25 and health services social worker, a primary care physician, a
26 behavioral health provider, or a public health nurse due to (i) risk
27 of child abuse or neglect, or (ii) exposure to complex trauma; and
28 (c) Enrolled in apple health for kids.

29 (2) The department shall make all reasonable efforts to deliver
30 the trauma and complex needs programs and other early intervention
31 services in areas of the state with the highest need and the greatest
32 local interest in such services and programs.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 410.** BIRTH TO THREE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
34 AND ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. The sum of three million dollars or as much
35 thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year
36 ending June 30, 2021, from the general fund to the department of
37 children, youth, and families solely for the purpose of implementing

1 and expanding a birth to three early childhood education and
2 assistance program project in accordance with the plan established
3 under RCW 43.216.578. If resources available under the federal
4 preschool development grant birth to five grant award becomes
5 available for a birth to three early childhood education and
6 assistance program, the federal funds may not supplant the
7 appropriation in this section.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 411.** DUAL LANGUAGE PROGRAMS. The sum of five
9 million dollars or as much thereof as may be necessary, is
10 appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, from the
11 general fund to the department of children, youth, and families
12 solely for the purpose of implementing dual language learning as
13 described in RCW 43.216.105.

14 **Sec. 412.** RCW 43.216.710 and 2017 3rd sp.s. c 6 s 213 are each
15 amended to read as follows:

16 LANGUAGE ACCESS FOR PARENTS. The department shall:

17 (1) Work in conjunction with the statewide child care resource
18 and referral network as well as local governments, nonprofit
19 organizations, businesses, and community child care advocates to
20 create local child care resource and referral organizations. These
21 organizations may carry out needs assessments, resource development,
22 provider training, technical assistance, and parent information and
23 training in multiple languages to ensure the system is accessible to
24 families and child care providers. These organizations must collect
25 and distribute information on dual language classrooms and providers;

26 (2) Actively seek public and private money for distribution as
27 grants to the statewide child care resource and referral network and
28 to existing or potential local child care resource and referral
29 organizations;

30 (3) Adopt rules regarding the application for and distribution of
31 grants to local child care resource and referral organizations. The
32 rules shall, at a minimum, require an applicant to submit a plan for
33 achieving the following objectives:

34 (a) Provide parents with information about child care resources,
35 including location of services and subsidies;

36 (b) Carry out child care provider recruitment and training
37 programs, including training under RCW 74.25.040;

1 (c) Offer support services, such as parent and provider seminars,
2 toy-lending libraries, and substitute banks;

3 (d) Provide information for businesses regarding child care
4 supply and demand;

5 (e) Advocate for increased public and private sector resources
6 devoted to child care;

7 (f) Provide technical assistance to employers regarding employee
8 child care services; and

9 (g) Serve recipients of temporary assistance for needy families
10 and working parents (~~(with incomes at or below household incomes of~~
11 ~~two hundred percent of the federal poverty line)~~) who are eligible
12 for child care subsidies;

13 (4) Provide staff support and technical assistance to the
14 statewide child care resource and referral network and local child
15 care resource and referral organizations;

16 (5) Maintain a statewide child care licensing data bank and work
17 with department licensors to provide information to local child care
18 resource and referral organizations about licensed child care
19 providers in the state;

20 (6) Through the statewide child care resource and referral
21 network and local resource and referral organizations, compile data
22 about local child care needs and availability for future planning and
23 development;

24 (7) Coordinate with the statewide child care resource and
25 referral network and local child care resource and referral
26 organizations for the provision of training and technical assistance
27 to child care providers;

28 (8) Collect and assemble information regarding the availability
29 of insurance and of federal and other child care funding to assist
30 state and local agencies, businesses, and other child care providers
31 in offering child care services;

32 (9) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
33 specific purpose, increase the base rate for all child care providers
34 by ten percent;

35 (10) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
36 specific purpose, provide tiered subsidy rate enhancements to child
37 care providers if the provider meets the following requirements:

38 (a) The provider enrolls in quality rating and improvement system
39 (~~(levels 2, 3, 4, or 5)~~) and meets the requirements outlined in RCW
40 43.216.135;

1 (b) The provider is actively participating in the early achievers
2 program; and

3 (c) The provider continues to advance towards level 5 of the
4 early achievers program; and

5 ~~((d) The provider must complete level 2 within thirty months or
6 the reimbursement rate returns the level 1 rate; and))~~

7 (11) Require exempt providers to participate in continuing
8 education, if adequate funding is available.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 413.** A new section is added to chapter 43.216
10 RCW to read as follows:

11 EXPANDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES QUALITY INITIATIVE. (1) By
12 December 1, 2021, the department shall work with the office of the
13 superintendent of public instruction, the statewide expanded learning
14 opportunities intermediary, the statewide child care resource and
15 referral network, and the University of Washington to develop a plan
16 to scale the existing expanded learning opportunities quality
17 initiative to support licensed or certified school-age only child
18 care providers, family home providers, and child care centers serving
19 school-age youth as well as to continue to provide quality supports
20 to other expanded learning providers serving children and youth ages
21 five through young adulthood.

22 (2) The plan required in subsection (1) of this section must
23 identify a quality mechanism that would support programmatic quality
24 improvement; align with early achievers in a developmentally
25 appropriate manner related to school-age children; and create a
26 pathway for subsidy rate enhancements, resources, quality improvement
27 awards and incentives, and eligibility for school-age child care-
28 related scholarships.

29 (3) For purposes of this section, "expanded learning
30 opportunities quality initiative" means the quality system of
31 coaching, training, assessment, and support for expanded learning
32 opportunities serving children ages five through young adulthood,
33 including school-age child care, aligned with early achievers. This
34 system is governed by the department in conjunction with the office
35 of the superintendent of public instruction, a statewide expanded
36 learning opportunities intermediary, the statewide child care
37 resource and referral network, and the University of Washington.

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