
SENATE BILL 6253

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Senators Wilson, C., Billig, Wellman, Kuderer, Randall, Salomon, Conway, Das, Nguyen, Darneille, and Hunt

Read first time 01/14/20. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

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, and
5 43.216.710; reenacting and amending RCW 43.216.010 and 43.216.135;
6 adding new sections to chapter 43.216 RCW; adding a new section to
7 chapter 28A.310 RCW; creating new sections; making appropriations;
8 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 suggest 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) 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.** A new section is added to chapter 43.216 RCW to read as follows:

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

(2) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the department must support professional development in inclusionary and antibias practices for early childhood education and assistance program classrooms and child care

1 centers and family home providers with a focus on reducing
2 suspensions and expulsions.

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

5 DUAL LANGUAGE CLASSROOMS. (1) Subject to the availability of
6 amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the department must
7 partner with the office of the superintendent of public instruction
8 to align dual language program implementation and workforce
9 development planning.

10 (2) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
11 specific purpose, the department must support professional
12 development for dual language programming for early childhood
13 education and assistance program classrooms.

14 **Sec. 109.** RCW 43.216.514 and 2019 c 408 s 7 are each amended to
15 read as follows:

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

19 (2) As space is available, children may be included in the early
20 childhood education and assistance program pursuant to RCW
21 43.216.512. (~~Priority within this group must be given first to~~
22 ~~children with incomes up to one hundred thirty percent of the federal~~
23 ~~poverty level.))~~

24 **Sec. 110.** RCW 43.216.512 and 2019 c 409 s 2 are each amended to
25 read as follows:

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

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

33 ~~(b) Above one hundred thirty percent but less than or equal to~~
34 ~~two hundred percent of the federal poverty level if the child meets~~
35 ~~at least one of the risk factor criterion described in subsection (2)~~
36 ~~of this section)) above the income levels described in RCW~~

1 43.216.505(6) and the child meets at least one of the risk factors
2 criterion described in subsection (2) of this section.

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

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

11 (b) Homelessness;

12 (c) Child welfare system involvement;

13 (d) Developmental delay or disability that does not meet the
14 eligibility criteria for special education described in RCW
15 28A.155.020;

16 (e) Domestic violence;

17 (f) English as a second language;

18 (g) Expulsion from an early learning setting;

19 (h) A parent who is incarcerated;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5 **Sec. 111.** RCW 43.216.010 and 2017 3rd sp.s. c 6 s 201 are each
6 reenacted and amended to read as follows:

7 CONFORMING AMENDMENTS. The definitions in this section apply
8 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires
9 otherwise.

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

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

18 (b) "Early learning" includes but is not limited to programs and
19 services for child care; state, federal, private, and nonprofit
20 preschool; child care subsidies; child care resource and referral;
21 parental education and support; and training and professional
22 development for early learning professionals;

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

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

32 (e) "Service provider" means the entity that operates a community
33 facility.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

19 (f) Schools, including boarding schools, that are engaged
20 primarily in education, operate on a definite school year schedule,
21 follow a stated academic curriculum, and accept only school age
22 children;

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

25 (h) Facilities providing child care for periods of less than
26 twenty-four hours when a parent or legal guardian of the child
27 remains on the premises of the facility for the purpose of
28 participating in:

29 (i) Activities other than employment; or

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

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

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

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

3 (iii) The entity is a local affiliate of a national nonprofit;
4 and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 (5) "Department" means the department of children, youth, and
23 families.

24 (6) "Early achievers" means a program that improves the quality
25 of early learning programs and supports and rewards providers for
26 their participation.

27 (7) "Early childhood education and assistance program contractor"
28 means an organization that provides early childhood education and
29 assistance program services under a signed contract with the
30 department.

31 (8) "Early childhood education and assistance program provider"
32 means an organization that provides site level, direct, and high
33 quality early childhood education and assistance program services
34 under the direction of an early childhood education and assistance
35 program contractor.

36 (9) "Early start" means an integrated high quality continuum of
37 early learning programs for children birth-to-five years of age.
38 Components of early start include, but are not limited to, the
39 following:

40 (a) Home visiting and parent education and support programs;

1 (b) The early achievers program described in RCW 43.216.085;

2 (c) Integrated full-day and part-day high quality early learning
3 programs; and

4 (d) High quality preschool for children (~~whose family income is~~
5 ~~at or below one hundred ten percent of the federal poverty level~~)
6 who have a family with financial need, as defined in RCW 43.216.505.

7 (10) "Education data center" means the education data center
8 established in RCW 43.41.400, commonly referred to as the education
9 research and data center.

10 (11) "Employer" means a person or business that engages the
11 services of one or more people, especially for wages or salary to
12 work in an agency.

13 (12) "Enforcement action" means denial, suspension, revocation,
14 modification, or nonrenewal of a license pursuant to RCW
15 43.216.325(1) or assessment of civil monetary penalties pursuant to
16 RCW 43.216.325(3).

17 (13) "Extended day program" means an early childhood education
18 and assistance program that offers early learning education for at
19 least ten hours per day, a minimum of two thousand hours per year, at
20 least four days per week, and operates year-round.

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

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

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

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

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

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

39 (c) An adverse agency action, including termination, revocation,
40 or denial of a license or certification, or if pending adverse agency

1 action, the voluntary surrender of a license, certification, or
2 contract in lieu of the adverse action;

3 (d) A revocation, denial, or restriction placed on any
4 professional license; or

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

31 **PART II**

32 **AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE QUALITY CHILD CARE**

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 201.** INTENT. (1) The legislature finds that
34 child care costs represent a large financial burden for parents of
35 young children. The legislature acknowledges that the cost of full-
36 time, center-based infant care averages over thirteen thousand
37 dollars per year in Washington. The legislature further acknowledges
38 that given the financial pressure experienced by low and middle-

1 income parents, both married and single, assistance with paying for
 2 quality child care services could dramatically improve their economic
 3 resiliency and disrupt intergenerational poverty. The legislature
 4 recognizes that research and studies show that investment in high
 5 quality child care for those lacking access could benefit communities
 6 statewide through future crime reduction and public health savings.

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

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

13 WORKING CONNECTIONS CHILD CARE COPAYMENT. (1) Subject to the
 14 availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the
 15 department shall establish and implement policies in the working
 16 connections child care program to allow eligibility for applicants
 17 and consumers who pay a copayment in accordance with the schedules in
 18 this section.

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

23 (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

1 (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

12 (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

18 (d) Beginning July 1, 2024:

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

24 (e) Beginning July 1, 2025:

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

30 (f) Beginning July 1, 2026:

If an applicant's or consumer's income is:	Then the applicant's or consumer's copayment is:
--	--

Above one hundred percent of the state median income	Ten percent of the applicant's or consumer's gross income
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Sec. 203. RCW 43.216.135 and 2019 c 406 s 70 and 2019 c 369 s 4 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

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

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

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

- ~~((a) Enroll in the early achievers program by August 1, 2016;~~
- ~~((b) Complete level 2 activities in the early achievers program by August 1, 2017; and~~

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

(4) A new child care provider serving nonschool-age children and receiving state subsidy payments on or after July 1, 2016, and that did not receive a subsidy payment between July 1, 2015, and June 30,

1 2016, must complete the following activities to be eligible to
2 receive a state subsidy under this section:

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

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

7 (c) Rate or request to be rated at a level 3 or higher in the
8 early achievers program within thirty months of enrollment. If a
9 child care provider does not rate or request to be rated at a level 3
10 within thirty months from enrollment into the early achievers
11 program, the provider is no longer eligible to receive state subsidy.
12 If the provider rates below a level 3 when the rating is released,
13 the provider must complete remedial activities with the department,
14 and rate or request to be rated at a level 3 or higher within twelve
15 months of beginning remedial activities.

16 (5) If a child care provider does not rate or request to be rated
17 at a level 3 or higher following the remedial period, the provider is
18 no longer eligible to receive state subsidy under this section. If a
19 child care provider does not rate at a level 3 or higher when the
20 rating is released following the remedial period, the provider is no
21 longer eligible to receive state subsidy under this section.

22 (6) If a child care provider serving nonschool-age children and
23 receiving state subsidy payments has successfully completed all level
24 2 activities and is waiting to be rated by the deadline provided in
25 this section, the provider may continue to receive a state subsidy
26 pending the successful completion of the level 3 rating activity.

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

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

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

36 (i) In the last six months have:

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

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

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

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

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

6 (b) Children who are eligible for working connections child care
7 pursuant to this subsection do not have to keep receiving services
8 identified in this subsection to maintain twelve-month authorization.
9 The department of social and health services' involvement with the
10 family referred for working connections child care ends when the
11 family's child protective services, child welfare services, or family
12 assessment response case is closed.

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

17 (i) A ((single)) parent;

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

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

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

28 (c) Nothing in this subsection is intended to change how
29 applicants or consumers are prioritized when applicants or consumers
30 are placed on a wait list for working connections child care
31 benefits.

32 **PART III**

33 **TIERED SUPPORTS AND COORDINATION**

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 301.** INTENT. (1) The legislature acknowledges
35 that a pilot project for a countywide resource and referral linkage
36 system for families received funding in chapter 415, Laws of 2019.
37 The legislature intends to build on this pilot project and other

1 existing linkage resources and expand the family resource and
2 referral linkage system statewide.

3 (2) The legislature recognizes that educational service districts
4 have supported and continue to support early learning initiatives
5 throughout the state. The legislature finds that educational service
6 districts provide a critical link between the early learning system
7 and the K-12 educational system. The legislature intends to build on
8 this experience by designating a prekindergarten through third grade
9 systems coordinator at each educational service district to continue
10 to elevate the importance of the development of young children.

11 (3) The legislature finds that a system of early care and
12 education requires flexibility to meet the varying needs of a diverse
13 population. The legislature further finds that not all families
14 require or want comprehensive wraparound services or may prefer a
15 less formal setting with care being provided by family, friends, or
16 neighbors. The legislature intends to prioritize family choice by
17 allowing providers to offer a tiered selection of supports based upon
18 need.

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

21 FAMILY RESOURCE AND REFERRAL LINKAGE SYSTEM AND CHILD CARE
22 PROVIDER SHARED SERVICES HUBS. (1) The department shall work with
23 cross-sector partners to build a statewide family resource and
24 referral linkage system by 2025 that connects families with children
25 prenatal through age five to appropriate services and community
26 resources. The statewide family resource and referral linkage system
27 must maintain an up-to-date database of services, programs, and
28 community resources available to families in Washington. The
29 statewide family resource and referral linkage system must partner
30 with communities, health care providers, and early learning providers
31 to connect families to resources, services, and programs in which
32 they are eligible. This system must also coordinate and leverage the
33 work of the child care provider shared services hubs described in
34 subsection (2) of this section.

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

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

3 (i) Shared comprehensive services may include developmental and
4 health screenings, mental health and nurse consultation, health
5 advisory and parent policy councils, assessments for one-on-one
6 behavioral support aides, and coordination with a local or statewide
7 family linkage system that connects families with young children to
8 appropriate community resources and services.

9 (ii) Shared business services may include support with fee
10 collection and financial management, human resources and payroll
11 services, regional substitute pools, and business coaching and
12 training.

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

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

18 (c) By July 1, 2022, the department shall report to the governor
19 and the appropriate committees of the legislature on the
20 effectiveness of the shared services hub model in creating
21 administrative efficiencies, realizing cost savings for child care
22 providers and the department, increasing the responsiveness of
23 providers to the needs of families, and building capacity for
24 inclusive and trauma-informed services. The department must make
25 recommendations for improvements or changes to the shared services
26 hub model and the expansion of the shared services hub model
27 statewide.

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

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 303.** A new section is added to chapter
30 28A.310 RCW to read as follows:

31 PREKINDERGARTEN THROUGH THIRD GRADE SYSTEMS COORDINATORS. (1)
32 Each educational service district must designate a prekindergarten
33 through third grade systems coordinator.

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

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

1 (b) Support the equitable expansion of early learning programs
2 and the closing of opportunity gaps for the state's youngest
3 learners;

4 (c) In partnership with the department of children, youth, and
5 families, align regional early learning efforts with other statewide
6 initiatives;

7 (d) In conjunction with the family resource and referral linkage
8 system and the child care provider shared services hubs described in
9 section 302 of this act, connect early learning providers, school
10 districts, and other early learning stakeholders to leverage existing
11 resources and expertise;

12 (e) Increase cross-sector coordination of resources and supports,
13 especially for children impacted by trauma;

14 (f) Inform shared professional development opportunities and
15 inform providers with various training and education within the
16 region; and

17 (g) Provide support and technical assistance.

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

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

23 (a) Expanding play and learn groups throughout the state;

24 (b) Integrating family, friend, and neighbor caregivers into home
25 visiting programs; and

26 (c) Developing models to offer child care health consultations
27 and mental health service in a culturally relevant context with a
28 variety of modalities.

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

32 **PART IV**

33 **EXPANDING SUPPORT TO PROVIDERS AND PARENTS**

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 401.** INTENT. (1)(a) The legislature
35 recognizes that achieving the desired child outcomes from high
36 quality early care and education programs requires additional
37 financial support, including the payment of a compensation package of

1 living wages and benefits to support a thriving industry of
2 providers. The legislature acknowledges that it established a child
3 care career and wage ladder for licensed child care centers through
4 chapter 507, Laws of 2005. The legislature further acknowledges that
5 it directed a child care workforce development technical work group
6 to develop recommendations to support increased child care workforce
7 wages, reduce turnover, enable child care providers to recruit more
8 qualified educators, and maintain the diversity of the current
9 workforce.

10 (b) The legislature finds that the federal administration of
11 children and families advises states to set child care subsidy rates
12 at the seventy-fifth percentile of private market rates in order to
13 ensure equal access to high quality child care. The legislature
14 acknowledges its commitment to raise rates through passage of chapter
15 369, Laws of 2019 to raise base subsidy rates for licensed child care
16 centers and family home providers to the seventy-fifth percentile of
17 market rates and to further incentivize the provision of care for
18 infants and toddlers by considering supplemental rates for providers
19 serving these young children. The legislature further acknowledges
20 that it directed the department of children, youth, and families to
21 use a child care cost model developed by the child care collaborative
22 task force to determine child care subsidy rates by January 1, 2025,
23 through chapter 368, Laws of 2019.

24 (c) The legislature intends to increase early childhood education
25 and assistance program slots, increase child care subsidy rates to
26 the seventy-fifth percentile, index rates to inflation to ensure
27 stability and longevity for providers statewide, and take a step
28 toward addressing the recommendations of the child care workforce
29 development technical work group.

30 (2) The legislature understands that voluntary early supports for
31 parents of young children through education services show a high
32 return on investment due to significantly improved chances of better
33 education, health, and life outcomes for children. The legislature
34 recognizes that demand for early supports and education far exceeds
35 current resources with only four counties able to serve more than
36 fifteen percent of eligible families. In 2019, the department
37 released a report with ways to expand such services in Washington
38 state. The report was informed by a statewide needs assessment that
39 included focus on a community-by-community analysis of risk factors
40 such as low kindergarten readiness, infant deaths, and domestic

1 violence. The legislature intends to continue to invest to support
2 service to additional eligible and interested families and to
3 increase support to parent and family education and early
4 intervention services to ensure families with young children have the
5 health and safety resources they need to thrive.

6 (3) The legislature finds that, in Washington state, immigrant
7 children whose first language is not English represent a significant
8 part of evolving and more diverse school demographics. The
9 legislature recognizes the need for Washington's early learning
10 workforce to evolve in a manner consistent with changing student
11 demographics to meet the needs of young English learners and to
12 communicate effectively with parents whose first language is not
13 English. The legislature finds it necessary to better serve non-
14 English-speaking children by addressing and closing the significant
15 language gaps that impact young English learners.

16 (4) The legislature recognizes the importance of achieving a high
17 quality, equitable system of expanded learning opportunities. The
18 legislature finds that high quality expanded learning opportunity
19 programs improve attendance and grades while building the social and
20 emotional skills needed to succeed in school and in life. The
21 legislature further finds that quality programs can result in
22 improved academics including attendance, grade point, and math and
23 literacy scores, as well as career pathway skills. The legislature
24 resolves to increase access to community-driven and youth-driven
25 expanded learning opportunities.

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

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 403.** A new section is added to chapter 43.216
34 RCW to read as follows:

35 CHILD CARE SUBSIDY RATES. (1) Subject to the availability of
36 amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the department shall
37 increase subsidy rates for licensed child care providers as follows:

1 (a) Beginning July 1, 2020, subsidy base rates must achieve the
2 sixtieth percentile of market based on the market rate survey
3 conducted by the department.

4 (b) Beginning July 1, 2021, subsidy base rates must achieve the
5 seventieth percentile of market based on the market rate survey
6 conducted by the department.

7 (c) Beginning July 1, 2023, subsidy base rates must achieve the
8 seventy-fifth percentile of market based on the market rate survey
9 conducted by the department.

10 (d) Beginning July 1, 2024, subsidy rates must be based on the
11 child care cost model developed under RCW 43.330.527 and referenced
12 in RCW 43.216.749 unless the child care cost model generates subsidy
13 rates lower than subsidy rates generated by (c) of this subsection.

14 (2) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
15 specific purpose, the department shall adjust subsidy rates according
16 to an inflationary increase in accordance with this section beginning
17 July 1, 2023. The inflationary increase shall be calculated by
18 applying the rate of the yearly increase in the inflationary
19 adjustment index to the market rates established in this section. Any
20 funded inflationary increase must be included in the base rate used
21 to determine inflationary increases in subsequent years. For the
22 purposes of this section, "inflationary adjustment index" means the
23 implicit price deflator for that fiscal year, using the official
24 current base rate, compiled by the bureau of economic analysis,
25 United States department of commerce.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 404.** CAREER AND WAGE LADDER. The sum of ten
27 million dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is
28 appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, from the
29 general fund to the department of children, youth, and families
30 solely for the purpose of implementing the career and wage ladder as
31 described in RCW 43.216.675 and 43.216.680.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 405.** HOME VISITING SERVICES. The sum of eight
33 million dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is
34 appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, from the home
35 visiting services account to the department of children, youth, and
36 families solely for the purpose of contracting for additional home
37 visiting slots.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 406.** A new section is added to chapter 43.216
2 RCW to read as follows:

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

8 (a) Between the ages of birth and five years;

9 (b) Referred by a child welfare worker, a department of social
10 and health services social worker, a primary care physician, a
11 behavioral health provider, or a public health nurse due to (i) risk
12 of child abuse or neglect, or (ii) exposure to complex trauma; and

13 (c) Enrolled in apple health for kids.

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

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 407.** BIRTH TO THREE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
19 AND ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. The sum of three million dollars or as much
20 thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year
21 ending June 30, 2021, from the general fund to the department of
22 children, youth, and families solely for the purpose of implementing
23 and expanding a birth to three early childhood education and
24 assistance program project in accordance with the plan established
25 under RCW 43.216.578. If resources available under the federal
26 preschool development grant birth to five grant award becomes
27 available for a birth to three early childhood education and
28 assistance program, the federal funds may not supplant the
29 appropriation in this section.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 408.** DUAL LANGUAGE PROGRAMS. The sum of five
31 million dollars or as much thereof as may be necessary, is
32 appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, from the
33 general fund to the department of children, youth, and families
34 solely for the purpose of implementing dual language learning as
35 described in RCW 43.216.105.

36 **Sec. 409.** RCW 43.216.710 and 2017 3rd sp.s. c 6 s 213 are each
37 amended to read as follows:

1 LANGUAGE ACCESS FOR PARENTS. The department shall:

2 (1) Work in conjunction with the statewide child care resource
3 and referral network as well as local governments, nonprofit
4 organizations, businesses, and community child care advocates to
5 create local child care resource and referral organizations. These
6 organizations may carry out needs assessments, resource development,
7 provider training, technical assistance, and parent information and
8 training in multiple languages to ensure the system is accessible to
9 families and providers;

10 (2) Actively seek public and private money for distribution as
11 grants to the statewide child care resource and referral network and
12 to existing or potential local child care resource and referral
13 organizations;

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

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

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

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

24 (d) Provide information for businesses regarding child care
25 supply and demand;

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

28 (f) Provide technical assistance to employers regarding employee
29 child care services; and

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

34 (4) Provide staff support and technical assistance to the
35 statewide child care resource and referral network and local child
36 care resource and referral organizations;

37 (5) Maintain a statewide child care licensing data bank and work
38 with department licensors to provide information to local child care
39 resource and referral organizations about licensed child care
40 providers in the state;

1 (6) Through the statewide child care resource and referral
2 network and local resource and referral organizations, compile data
3 about local child care needs and availability for future planning and
4 development;

5 (7) Coordinate with the statewide child care resource and
6 referral network and local child care resource and referral
7 organizations for the provision of training and technical assistance
8 to child care providers;

9 (8) Collect and assemble information regarding the availability
10 of insurance and of federal and other child care funding to assist
11 state and local agencies, businesses, and other child care providers
12 in offering child care services;

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

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

19 (a) The provider enrolls in quality rating and improvement system
20 (~~levels 2, 3, 4, or 5~~) and meets the requirements outlined in RCW
21 43.216.135;

22 (b) The provider is actively participating in the early achievers
23 program; and

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

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

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

30 NEW SECTION. Sec. 410. A new section is added to chapter 43.216
31 RCW to read as follows:

32 EXPANDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES QUALITY INITIATIVE. (1) By
33 December 1, 2021, the department shall work with the office of the
34 superintendent of public instruction, the statewide expanded learning
35 opportunities intermediary, the statewide child care resource and
36 referral network, and the University of Washington to develop a plan
37 to scale the existing expanded learning opportunities quality
38 initiative to support licensed or certified school-age only child
39 care providers, family home providers, and child care centers serving

1 school-age youth as well as to continue to provide quality supports
2 to other expanded learning providers serving children and youth ages
3 five through young adulthood.

4 (2) The plan required in subsection (1) of this section must
5 identify a quality mechanism that would support programmatic quality
6 improvement; align with early achievers in a developmentally
7 appropriate manner related to school-age children; and create a
8 pathway for subsidy rate enhancements, resources, quality improvement
9 awards and incentives, and eligibility for school-age child care-
10 related scholarships.

11 (3) For purposes of this section, "expanded learning
12 opportunities quality initiative" means the quality system of
13 coaching, training, assessment, and support for expanded learning
14 opportunities serving children ages five through young adulthood,
15 including school-age child care, aligned with early achievers. This
16 system is governed by the department in conjunction with the office
17 of the superintendent of public instruction, a statewide expanded
18 learning opportunities intermediary, the statewide child care
19 resource and referral network, and the University of Washington.

--- END ---