

2025 Early Learning End of Session Update



Washington State Association of Head Start and ECEAP

ECEAP (State Pre-K) got hammered

- **“Entitlement” Delayed to 2030** – Fair Start for Kids called for reaching all eligible children by 2026
- **3000 Part-day Slots eliminated** (ECEAP currently underenrolled/undercontracted by 2500 across the 3 models, part day, school day, working day)
- **Early ECEAP Eliminated**, but the ‘container’ remains for future restart (birth-3 center-based ECEAP)
- **5% rate increase** for School-day only, starting July 1, 2025
- **250 School-day slots added** in 2026

Child Care Subsidies etc

- Eligibility expansions delayed to 2030
- Elimination of early learning worker WCCC benefit
- Subsidy rate increase delayed to 2026
- 1-year Eligibility starts when WCCC is approved, rather than when care is secured
- Child Care complex needs fund reduced by 25%
- Copayment changes

Other Budget Items

- Freeze on Transition to Kindergarten expansion
- \$99 million in Early Learning capital investments
- No \$\$ for Tribal Early Learning Fund
- Reductions to Dual Language rate enhancement, Infant Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation, Student Parent WCCC, tribal IECMHC, Home Visiting, Play and Learn, Reach out and Read, ECEAP complex needs

Policy Bills

- HB1314 – creates an emergency facilities fund and expands eligibility to programs who are converting PD to SD classrooms
- HB1351 – Will allow ECEAP programs to enroll children when they turn 3 if there is space
- HB1648 – changes deadline for meeting licensed childcare credential requirements, creates an experience pathway to approval
- SB5769 – Transition to K freeze and planning process

Thank you



Katy Warren

Washington State Association of
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katy@wsaheadstarteceap.com

206.291.2021