

# COMPARISON OF 2025-27 BIENNIUM OPERATING BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR EARLY LEARNING



The base of this table is Maintenance Level funding, so any reductions are cost savings achieved from reductions from Maintenance Level and new investments are those above what was included in Maintenance Level. The numbers presented include two years of funding for the 2025-27 biennium. Start Early Washington’s analysis will evolve as we learn more about each chamber’s proposal and as lawmakers continue negotiations.

	<u>Senate Proposed</u> 3/24/25	<u>House Proposed</u> 3/24/25
<b>FCC Collective Bargaining Agreement</b>		
FCC rates to the 85 <sup>th</sup> percentile of 2024 MRS beginning July 1, 2025	\$197,303,000	\$197,303,000
FFN rates increased by 50 cents per child, per hour beginning July 1, 2025	\$11,126,000	\$11,126,000
Cost of care rate enhancement	\$166,286,000	\$166,285,000
Health care contribution increase	\$6,128,000	\$6,128,000
Trauma informed care supports	\$900,000	\$900,000
Dual language designation awards	\$600,000	\$600,000
Equity grants	\$1,400,000	\$1,400,000
<b>Center Based Rates for WCCC</b>		
Center rates to the 85 <sup>th</sup> percentile of 2024 MRS beginning July 1, 2026	\$126,974,000	\$127,601,000
Savings from delaying center rate increase by one year	(\$121,558,000)	(\$121,558,000)
Hold harmless centers that exceed the 85 <sup>th</sup> percentile of 2024 MRS	N/A	(\$4,039,000)
<b>WCCC Auxiliaries</b>		
Non-standard hours bonus	Maintained at current level (\$300/mo)	Maintained at current level (\$300/mo)
Infant rate enhancement	Maintained at current level (\$150/mo)	Maintained at current level (\$150/mo)
Complex Needs Fund (child care)	Maintained at \$20,508,000	(\$5,000,000)
Seasonal Child Care	(\$3,120,000)	(\$3,120,000)
Dual language rate enhancement	(\$5,800,000)	(\$3,200,000)
Trauma informed care supports	(\$3,996,000)	(\$1,184,000)
Infant Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation	(\$7,413,000)	Maintained at \$8,146,000
Equity grants	(\$3,880,000)	Maintained
Tribal early learning	Maintained at \$260,000	(\$160,000)
<b>Family Eligibility and Co-Payments for WCCC</b>		
Increased co-payments for families	(\$20,136,000) per <a href="#">ESSB 5752 fiscal note</a>	Current structure maintained
Eligibility for student parents	(\$14,282,000)	(\$12,292,000)

	<u>Senate Proposed</u> 3/24/25	<u>House Proposed</u> 3/24/25
<b>ECEAP</b>		
Provider rates	\$31,170,000: 10% increase for full-day slots	\$20,953,000: 5% increase in FY 26 for school-day + an additional 5% increase in FY 27
Expanded/converted slots	\$38,124,000: 1,200 full-day slots	\$1,450,000: Convert 250 part-day slots to school day
Slot reduction	(\$65,440,000): Eliminate 3,245 part-day slots	(\$47,390,000): Eliminate 2,350 part-day slots
Early ECEAP	(\$9,254,000)	(\$9,254,000)
Complex Needs Fund (ECEAP)	Maintained at \$9,058,000	(\$198,000)
<b>Home Visiting</b>		
Underspend sweep	(\$2,500,000)	(\$1,500,000)
Reduce funding for program expansion		(\$500,000)
Home Visiting Services Account reduction	(\$8,056,000)	
<b>Transition to Kindergarten</b>		
Savings due to paused growth	(\$74,634,000)	(\$73,362,000)
<b>Operating Investments Related to Early Learning Facilities</b>		
DCYF Early Learning Fund technical assistance reduction		(\$692,000)
Implementation of <a href="#">ESSB 5509</a> (2025)	\$224,000	
Implementation of <a href="#">SSB 5655</a> (2025)	\$15,000	
Feasibility of joint underwriting	\$350,000	
Testing for lead in child care facilities	\$314,000	\$314,000
<b>Other Early Learning Investments</b>		
Administrative efficiencies	(\$6,000,000)	(\$1,762,000)
Play and Learn Groups	(\$1,320,000)	\$550,000 in FY 26 & then eliminated
Spokane Child Care Mental Health Program		\$300,000
Dolly Parton Imagination Library	Not funded	Not funded
Family Connects (Pierce County)	\$2,000,000	\$1,000,000
Washington Communities for Children	Not funded	\$300,000

For more information, please contact:

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3/25/25