

COMPARISON OF 2025-27 BIENNIUM BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR EARLY LEARNING

2025-27 OPERATING BUDGET PROPOSALS

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. New or updated items are highlighted in **yellow**.

	<u>ESSB 5167</u> As passed Senate floor 3/29/25	<u>ESSB 5167</u> As passed House floor 3/31/25
FCC Collective Bargaining Agreement		
FCC rates to the 85 th 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
Center Based Rates for WCCC		
Center rates to the 85 th 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 th percentile of 2024 MRS	N/A	(\$4,039,000)
WCCC Auxiliaries		
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	(\$520,000)	(\$320,000)
Family Eligibility and Co-Payments for WCCC		
Increased co-payments for families	(\$20,136,000) per ESSB 5752 fiscal note	Current structure maintained
Eligibility for student parents	(\$14,282,000)	(\$12,292,000)

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ECEAP		
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)
Home Visiting		
Underspend sweep	(\$2,500,000)	(\$1,500,000)
Reduce funding for program expansion		(\$500,000)
Home Visiting Services Account reduction	(\$8,056,000)	
Transition to Kindergarten		
Savings due to paused growth	(\$74,634,000)	(\$73,362,000)
Coordinated Recruitment and Enrollment	Maintained at \$2,398,000	(\$2,398,000)
Operating Investments Related to Early Learning Facilities		
DCYF Early Learning Fund technical assistance reduction		(\$692,000)
Implementation of ESSB 5509 (2025)	\$224,000	
Implementation of SSB 5655 (2025)	\$15,000	
Feasibility of joint underwriting	\$350,000	
Testing for lead in child care facilities	\$314,000	\$314,000
Other Early Learning Investments		
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	\$2,000,000	\$300,000
Reach Out and Read	(\$600,000)	(\$600,000)
ECLIPSE	Maintained at \$16,752,000	(\$528,000)

2025-27 CAPITAL BUDGET PROPOSALS

Senate Proposed*
3/31/25

House Proposed
3/31/25

	Subtotal: \$73,000,000	Subtotal: \$69,000,000
Early Learning Facilities Fund		
Eligible organizations grant	\$60,000,000 (up to 3% for TA)	\$52,000,000 (up to 3.5% for TA, up to 4% for admin)
Health and safety minor renovation grant	\$10,000,000	\$8,000,000 (up to 4% for admin)
Emergency grants	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000 (up to \$112,000 for admin)
WELL Fund	Not included	\$6,000,000 (up to 4% for TA, 0% for state agency admin)
	Subtotal: \$12,119,000	Subtotal: \$12,119,000
Public School District Grant		
Cle Elum School District Roslyn Early Learning (13 th)	\$978,000	\$978,000
Lind-Ritzville Cooperative Schools Subsidized Care (9 th LD)	\$823,000	\$823,000
Medical Lake School District Early Learning Center (3 rd LD)	\$1,102,000	\$1,102,000
Meridian School District Whatcom EL Center (42 nd LD)	\$1,100,000	\$1,100,000
Orting School District Early Learning Center (2 nd LD)	\$4,592,000	\$4,592,000
Prosser School District ECEAP Expansion (15 th LD)	\$1,102,000	\$1,102,000
Valley School District Valley Early Learning Center (7 th LD)	\$1,102,000	\$1,102,000
Walla Walla School District Ctr. for Children & Families (16 th LD)	\$285,000	\$285,000
West Valley School District Valley EL Center (3 rd LD)	\$1,035,000	\$1,035,000
	Subtotal: \$15,042,000	Subtotal: \$11,028,000
In-District Projects		
Batey Square Early Learning (27 th LD)	\$88,000	\$88,000
Cora Whitley Family Center (27 th LD)	\$485,000	\$485,000
Hemlock Commons at Play Frontier (17 th LD)	Not included	\$1,036,000
Little Wings Child Care Center (21 st LD)	\$3,550,000	\$3,550,000
New Tomorrow's Hope Center (38 th LD)	\$3,050,000	\$3,050,000
Port Angeles YMCA Early Learning (24 th LD)	Not included	\$2,050,000
Redmond Childcare Expansion (48 th LD)	\$769,000	\$769,000
Ritzville Child Care Facility (9 th LD)	\$2,050,000	Not included
Willard Early Learning Center (27 th LD)	\$5,050,000	Not included
	Subtotal: \$815,000	Subtotal: \$616,000
Early Learning Projects in Local and Community Projects		
Anacortes Early Learning Center - Whitney Campus (40 th LD)	\$42,000	\$41,000
Improvements to Low-Income Child Care Center (6 th LD)	Not included	\$225,000
Northeast PDA Housing & Childcare (6 th LD)	Not included	\$350,000
Shore Aquatic Center Child Care Expansion Project (24 th LD)	\$773,000	Not included

*Senate proposed appropriations must be awarded & under contract by 6/30/29 and must be spent by 6/30/31

Policy Changes in Proviso		
Timelines for awarding appropriations, executing contracts, and spending appropriations	<p>Appropriations for ELF Fund projects lapse for projects that don't meet these timelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025-2027 appropriations (Secs. 1003, 1010, 1026): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Awarded and under contract 6/30/29 ○ Commerce report of lapsed approps 1/15/30 ○ Spent 6/30/31 • 2023-2025 reappropriations (Secs. 6038, 6048): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Executed contract 6/30/27 ○ Commerce report of lapsed approps 1/15/28 ○ Spent 6/30/29 • 2021-2023 reappropriations (Secs. 6010, 6015, 6068, 6069): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Executed contract 12/31/25 ○ Commerce report of lapsed approps 1/15/26 ○ Spent 6/30/27 	Not included
Establishing the ELF Emergency Fund	<p>Sec. 1003. (4) \$3,000,000 of the Ruth LeCocq Kagi early learning facilities revolving account—state appropriation in this section is provided solely for implementation of the emergency grants program established in House Bill No. 1314 (concerning the early learning facilities grant and loan program). The department shall contract with one or more nongovernmental private-public partnerships that are certified by the community development financial institutions fund to award and administer the emergency grants on an on-going basis to eligible organizations. If the bill is not enacted by June 30, 2025, the amounts provided in this subsection (4) shall lapse.</p>	<p>Sec. 1003. (2) \$3,000,000 of the Ruth LeCocq Kagi early learning facilities development account—state appropriation in this section is provided solely for emergency grants pursuant to HB 1314 (Early learning facilities). The department may use up to \$112,000 of the appropriation in this subsection (2) for administrative expenses.</p>
Lessening the burden of matching requirements	Not included	<p>Sec. 1003. (1)(b) The department is encouraged to leverage private and public match funds when feasible and may not require match funds for applicants experiencing financial hardship. The department may not consider the level of project match funds as a competitive criterion when selecting or recommending projects for funding.</p>
Clarifying ECEAP slot conversion as an eligible ELF Fund activity	Not included	<p>Sec. 1003. (1)(c) Grants may include awards for construction, renovation, or facility purchase projects that will increase early childhood education and assistance program capacity by supporting conversion of slots from part day programs to full day programs or extended day programs, or conversion of full day programs to extended day programs, as defined in RCW 43.216.010.</p>

For more information, please contact:

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