

Comparison of Early Learning in Proposed 2025-27 Supplemental Budgets

EARLY LEARNING IN 2025-27 PROPOSED SUPPLEMENTAL OPERATING BUDGETS

<i>Supplemental budget amounts represent changes to biennial budget amounts.</i>	SSB 5998 As passed Senate Ways & Means Committee (2/25/26)	SHB 2289 As passed House Appropriations Committee (2/25/26)	Governor Proposed (12/2025)
Family Child Care (FCC) Collective Bargaining Agreement for WCCC			
FCC provider rates	No change in rates for 2025-27, but SB 6353 signals a rebasing of all child care provider rates to the 75 th percentile of Market Rate Survey (MRS) as of 7/1/27 with existing bargaining language for FCC providers maintained	No change in rates for 2025-27, but SHB 2689 signals a rebasing of all child care provider rates to the 75 th percentile of MRS as of 7/1/27 with existing bargaining language for FCC providers maintained	No change in rates for 2025-27, but Gov. signals intention to fund FCC at the 75 th percentile of the latest MRS following the next CBA
Caseload adjustment to FCC cost of care enhancement	\$20.861 M	\$20.861 M	Not included because increase reflects February 2026 caseload
Center Based Rates for WCCC			
Center provider rates	Requires rates at the 75 th percentile of the market beginning 7/1/27 per SB 6353 . Cost indeterminate.	Requires rates at the 75 th percentile of the market beginning 7/1/27 per SHB 2689 . Cost indeterminate.	(\$41.088 M) Center rates lowered to 75 th percentile of MRS on an ongoing basis with 2024 MRS adopted beginning 7/1/26
Elimination of enhanced rates for center-based providers in Benton, Clark, Walla Walla, and Whitman counties	(\$15.463 M)	(\$15.463 M)	Not included
WCCC Provider Payments			
Enrollment and prospective payments	(\$45.35 M) Repeal of prospective and enrollment-based pay previously scheduled for 8/1/26	(\$45.35 M) Repeal of prospective and enrollment-based pay previously scheduled for 8/1/26	(\$43.678 M) Discontinuation of enrollment-based pay

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WCCC attendance policy	(\$107.17 M) Per SB 6353 , beginning 10/1/26, a provider can bill for 15 days if a child attends at least 1 day. A provider can also bill per day based on attendance beyond 15 days.	(\$61.095 M) Per SHB 2689 , beginning 10/1/26, a provider can bill for 10 days if a child attends between 1 and 10 days. A provider can bill for the full month if a child attends at least 11 days.	Not included
Implementation of SB 6353	\$2 M	Not included	Not included
Implementation of SHB 2689	Not included	\$1.5 M IT support for WCCC costs	Not included
Implementation of ESSB 5500 cost of quality care study	\$15,000	Not included	Not included

WCCC Family Eligibility and Co-Payments

Capped enrollment	Not included	Not included	(\$217.54 M) Caseloads capped at 33,000 families, through “natural exits” effective 7/1/26 with exceptions for child welfare-involved families
Family eligibility	Eliminates previously scheduled increases to family income through the Fair Start for Kids Act per SB 6353	Eliminates previously scheduled increases to family income through the Fair Start for Kids Act per SHB 2689	No change

Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP)

PreK Promise Account partnership with Ballmer Group (ESB 5872)	\$34.5 M Minimum of 2,000 new ECEAP slots in 2026-27 SY by leveraging private philanthropic investment by Ballmer Group. Additional expansion planned in future years.	\$34.647 M Minimum of 2,000 new ECEAP slots in 2026-27 SY by leveraging private philanthropic investment by Ballmer Group. Additional expansion planned in future years.	\$34.5 M Ballmer Group investment to support 2,000 new slots for 2026-27 SY
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Administration of PreK Promise Account

Not included

\$147,000

Not included

Home Visiting

Home Visiting Services Account (HVSA) one-time fund balance sweep

(\$2.3 M)

(\$2.3 M)

(\$2.3 M)

Transition to Kindergarten (TTK)

Access for families

(\$31.553 M)* Per [SB 6260](#), TTK enrollment is tied to funding in the budget; sets eligibility at 185% of FPL; and allows schools to supplement TTK with local levy funds, tuition payments or other resources. Likely to result in approximately 50% reduction in slots.

*As amended in the Senate Ways & Means Committee on 2/25/26

(\$18.970 M) Funding is reduced to support 5,450 annual average full-time equivalent eligible children in school year 2026-27. Authorizes schools operating TTK programs to supplement state funding with local levy funds or other resources to enroll additional eligible children who are not state funded. Requires that OSPI must first prioritize existing TTK programs that serve prioritized students before providing funding for new TTK programs that are located within extreme child care access deserts.

Adds students who are eligible for and receiving special education services to the prioritization list for OSPI to prioritize certain student groups.

By 6/30/26, OSPI must report to the office of the governor and the Legislature on the planned TTK slot allotment for the 2026-27

(\$19.501 M) Elimination of 1,816 slots (25%) in 2026-27 SY from 7,266 to 5,450 slots

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school year. The report must include the following information for each district that will receive funding for the program during the 2026-27 school year: (a) The number of program slots funded; (b) The percentile of students eligible for free or reduced-price meals during the 2025-26 school year; and (c) Whether the district is located within, or includes a zip code defined as, an extreme child care access desert as determined by DCYF.

*As amended in the House Appropriations Committee on 2/25/26

Other Early Learning Investments

Implementation of HB 2637 (safeguarding personal information)	Not included	\$144,000	Not included
Implementation of 2SHB 1128 (Child care workforce board)	Not included	\$50,000	Not included
Administrative reduction	Not included	(\$1.504 M) Reduction for contracts, goods/services, travel, and outlays reduced by 3 percent starting 7/1/26	Not included
Child care professional development	No change	(\$2.15 M) Contracted supports and trainings for providers are reduced by approximately 50%	(\$2.1 M) Reduction in contracted PD supports
Joint DCYF and OSPI dashboards	Not included	Within existing resources, DCYF and OSPI must determine best practices, shared strategies, and data sharing approaches for the joint development of regional, public-	Not included

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facing data dashboards that support the transition from early learning to the K-12 education system. The joint dashboards developed as part of this work must build from existing dashboards and must include regularly updated key indicators such as program supply and demand, enrollment trends, and outcomes of state early learning investments, disaggregated by geography, program type, and family demographics. The joint dashboards must be completed by 6/30/26.

NEW EARLY LEARNING FACILITIES INVESTMENTS IN 2025-27 SUPPLEMENTAL CAPITAL BUDGETS

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[SSB 6003](#)
As Passed Senate Ways & Means Committee (2/26/26)

[SHB 2295](#)
As Passed House Capital Budget Committee (2/26/26)

[Governor Proposed](#)
(12/2025)

Family Child Care (FCC) Collective Bargaining Agreement for WCCC

Additional investments for Early Learning Facilities Fund (ELF) Minor Renovation projects

Not included

\$7.3 M

Not included

For more information, please contact:

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