

Comparison of Early Learning in Conference and Proposed 2025-27 Supplemental Budgets

OPERATING BUDGET

Supplemental budget amounts represent changes to biennial budget amounts.

[ESSB 5998](#)
Conference Committee
(3/11/26)

[ESSB 5998](#)
As Passed Senate Floor
(2/27/26)

[SHB 2289](#)
As Passed House Floor
(2/28/26)

Family Child Care (FCC) Collective Bargaining Agreement for Working Connections Child Care (WCCC)

FCC provider rates	No change, rates maintained at the 85 th percentile of the 2024 Market Rate Survey (MRS) through SFY 2027 SHB 2689 rebases subsidy rates to the 75 th percentile of the market beginning 7/1/27, maintaining bargaining language for family child care providers	No change	No change
Caseload adjustment to FCC	\$20.861 M General Fund-State (GF-S)	\$20.861 M GF-S	\$20.861 M GF-S

Center Based Rates for WCCC

Center provider rates	No change to current statute; child care center rates to increase to the 85 th percentile of the 2024 MRS beginning 7/1/26 SHB 2689 rebases subsidy rates to the 75 th percentile of the market beginning 7/1/27	Requires rates at the 75 th percentile of the market beginning 7/1/27	Requires rates at the 75 th percentile of the market beginning 7/1/27
Elimination of enhanced rates	(\$15.463 M GF-S) Savings are achieved by eliminating the enhanced regional rates for center-based providers in Benton, Clark, Walla Walla, and Whitman counties	(\$15.463 M GF-S)	(\$15.463 M GF-S)

WCCC Provider Payments

Prospective payments and enrollment-based pay	(\$45.35 M): (\$36.261 M GF-S, \$9.089 M Federal) Repeal of prospective and enrollment-based pay previously scheduled for 8/1/26	(\$45.35 M)	(\$45.35 M)
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WCCC attendance policy

(\$91.56 M GF-S) [SHB 2689](#) modifies attendance-based provider reimbursement beginning 10/1/2026

- If a child attends 16 or more days in a calendar month, the provider is paid for the entire month
- If a child attends between 9-15 days in a calendar month, the provider is paid for 15 days
- If a child attends between 1-8 days in a calendar month, the provider is paid for 11 days

(\$107.17 M GF-S)

- If a child attends at least 1 day, a provider can bill for 15 days
- After 15 days of attendance, a provider can bill by daily attendance

(\$61.095 M GF-S)

- If a child attends at least 1 day, a provider can bill for 10 days
- If a child attends at least 11 days, a provider can bill for the entire month

Implementation of [SHB 2689](#)

\$2.421 total new investment:

\$2.074 M (DCYF Program Support and Early Learning; \$2.043 M GF-S, \$31,000 Federal): Additional audit and provider support staff

\$347,000 (DSHS, GF-S): Office of Fraud and Accountability to investigate potential fraud identified by auditors at DCYF

\$2 M GF-S to implement Senate Vehicle ([SSB 6353](#)) (note SHB 2689 is now the vehicle)

\$1.5 M GF-S

Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP)

PreK Promise

\$170.147 M (Gift from Ballmer Group): Established through [ESB 5872](#), the Pre-K Promise Account represents a partnership between state government and the Ballmer Group to support ECEAP expansion. Authority is provided to support up to 10,000 new ECEAP slots beginning in the 2026-27 school year

\$147,000 GF-S: Implementation of the Pre-K Promise Account

\$34.5 M (Private funding)

\$170.147 M (Private funding)

\$147,000 (GF-S)

Home Visiting

Home Visiting Services Account (HVSA)

(\$2.3 M) (HVSA): One-time fund balance sweep of the HVSA

(\$2.3 M) (HVSA)

(\$2.3 M) (HVSA)

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Transition to Kindergarten (TTK)

Access for families

(\$27.269 M) total GF-S reduction:
(\$25.139 M) (Public Schools, GF-S)
(\$1.998 M) (Public Schools LAP, GF-S)
(\$132,000) (Public Schools Compensation Adjustments, GF-S)

(\$30.489 M) (GF-S) TTK enrollment is tied to funding in the budget with apx. 50% reduction in slots

(\$18.970 M) (GF-S) Funding is reduced to support 5,450 annual average full-time equivalent eligible children in school year 2026-27

Savings are achieved by reducing funding for the Transition to Kindergarten (TTK) program beginning in SY 2026-27 pursuant to [ESSB 6260](#). Will result in a roughly one-third reduction in TTK slots.

OSPI to prioritize funding for existing TTK programs that:

- Serve students who qualify for free or reduced-price meals or have a household income at or below 185 percent of the federal poverty level and lack access to licensed child care;
- Are eligible, but not scheduled for, enrollment in ECEAP or Head Start;
- Are eligible for or receiving special education in accordance with the federal individuals with disabilities education act; or
- Are English learners or multilingual learners.

OSPI must prioritize funding for existing TTK programs serving this specific population before providing funding for new programs located within extreme child care access deserts

Other Early Learning Programs

Child Care Workforce Standards Board

\$380,000 total investment:
\$301,000 (Department of Labor & Industries, Accident Account-State; Medical Aid Account-State): 1.1 FTE at Department of Labor & Industries

Not included

\$50,000 GF-S

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\$79,000 (DCYF Early Learning, GF-S): .3 FTE at DCYF.3 FTE at DCYF

Funding is provided to implement [2SHB 1128](#) establishing the Washington state child care workforce standards board to make recommendations on employment standards for child care workers

Child care professional development	(\$2.15 M GF-S) : Savings are achieved by reducing professional development activities, including contracted supports and training for providers, by approximately 50 percent	No change	(\$2.15 M GF-S) Contracted supports and trainings for providers are reduced by approximately 50%
Joint DCYF and OSPI dashboards	Within existing resources, DCYF and OSPI must determine best practices, shared strategies, and data sharing approaches for the joint development of regional, public-facing data dashboards that support the transition from early learning to the K-12 education system	Not included	Included

CAPITAL BUDGET

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[2SSB 6003](#)
Conference Committee
(3/11/26)

[SSB 6003](#)
As Passed Senate Floor
(2/27/26)

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

Family Child Care (FCC) Collective Bargaining Agreement for WCCC			
Additional investments for Early Learning Facilities Fund (ELF) Minor Renovation	\$5.9 M (Debt Limit Bonds)	Not included	\$7.3 M

For more information, please contact:

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