

SSB 6759 - H AMD 1518

By Representative Goodman

ADOPTED 03/05/2010

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that a critical
4 factor in the eventual successful outcome of a K-12 education is for
5 students to begin school ready, both intellectually and socially, to
6 learn. The legislature also finds that, due to a variety of factors,
7 some young children need supplemental instruction in preschool to
8 assure that they have the opportunity to participate meaningfully and
9 reach the necessary levels of achievement in the regular program of
10 basic education. The legislature further finds that children who
11 participate in high quality preschool programs have improved
12 educational and life outcomes and are more likely to graduate from high
13 school and pursue higher education, experience successful employment
14 opportunities, and have increased earnings. Therefore the legislature
15 intends to create a program of early learning that, when fully
16 implemented, shall be an entitlement program for eligible children.

17 The legislature also finds that the state early childhood education
18 and assistance program was established to help children from low-income
19 families be prepared for kindergarten, and that the program has been a
20 successful model for achieving that goal. Therefore, the legislature
21 intends that the first phase of implementing the entitlement program of
22 early learning shall be accomplished by utilizing the program standards
23 and eligibility criteria in the early childhood education and
24 assistance program. The legislature also intends that the
25 implementation of subsequent phases of the program established by the
26 ready for school act of 2010 will be aligned with the implementation of
27 the state's all-day kindergarten program in order to maximize the gains
28 resulting from investments in the two programs.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** DEFINITIONS. The definitions in this
2 section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly
3 requires otherwise.

4 (1) "Community-based early learning providers" includes for-profit
5 and nonprofit licensed providers of child care and preschool programs.

6 (2) "Program" means the program of early learning established in
7 section 3 of this act for eligible children who are three and four
8 years of age.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** PROGRAM STANDARDS. (1) Beginning September
10 1, 2011, an early learning program to provide voluntary preschool
11 opportunities for children three and four years of age shall be
12 implemented according to the funding and implementation plan in section
13 5 of this act. The program must be a comprehensive program providing
14 early childhood education and family support, options for parental
15 involvement, and health information, screening, and referral services,
16 as family need is determined. Participation in the program is
17 voluntary. On a space available basis, the program may allow
18 enrollment of children who are not otherwise eligible by assessing a
19 fee.

20 (2) The first phase of the program shall be implemented by
21 utilizing the program standards and eligibility criteria in the early
22 childhood education and assistance program.

23 (3) Subsequent phases of the program including, but not limited to,
24 program standards and eligibility criteria, shall be defined by the
25 legislature after receiving the recommendations from the director
26 required in section 8 of this act.

27 (4) The director shall adopt rules for the following program
28 components, as appropriate and necessary during the phased
29 implementation of the program:

30 (a) Minimum program standards, including lead teacher, assistant
31 teacher, and staff qualifications;

32 (b) Approval of program providers;

33 (c) Accountability and adherence to performance standards; and

34 (d) A method for allowing, on a space available basis, enrollment
35 of children who are not otherwise eligible by assessing fees or
36 copayments.

37 (5) The department has administrative responsibility for:

1 (a) Approving and contracting with providers according to rules
2 developed by the director under this section;

3 (b) In partnership with school districts, monitoring program
4 quality and assuring the program is responsive to the needs of eligible
5 children;

6 (c) Assuring that program providers work cooperatively with school
7 districts to coordinate the transition from preschool to kindergarten
8 so that children and their families are well-prepared and supported;
9 and

10 (d) Providing technical assistance to contracted providers.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** ELIGIBILITY. (1)(a) During the initial
12 phase of implementation, the standards in RCW 43.215.405(3) used for
13 eligibility determinations in the early childhood education and
14 assistance program shall be used to determine eligibility for the
15 program.

16 (b) During subsequent phases of implementation, eligibility
17 determinations shall be based on factors adopted by the legislature
18 after receiving recommendations required in subsection (2) of this
19 section.

20 (2) The director shall develop recommendations for legislative
21 approval regarding eligibility criteria for subsequent phases of
22 implementation of the program.

23 (3) The director shall report the recommendations required under
24 subsection (2) of this section to the appropriate committees of the
25 legislature not later than December 1, 2010.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** FUNDING AND STATEWIDE IMPLEMENTATION. (1)
27 Funding for the program of early learning established under this
28 chapter must be appropriated to the department. Allocations must be
29 made on the basis of eligible children enrolled with eligible
30 providers.

31 (2) The program shall be implemented in phases, so that full
32 implementation is achieved in the 2017-18 school year.

33 (3) For the initial phase of the early learning program in school
34 years 2011-12 and 2012-13, the legislature shall appropriate funding to
35 the department for implementation of the program in an amount not less

1 than the 2009-2011 enacted budget for the early childhood education and
2 assistance program. The appropriation shall be sufficient to fund an
3 equivalent number of slots as funded in the 2009-2011 enacted budget.

4 (4) Beginning in the 2013-14 school year, additional funding for
5 the program must be phased in beginning in school districts providing
6 all-day kindergarten programs under RCW 28A.150.315.

7 (5) Funding shall continue to be phased in incrementally each year
8 until full statewide implementation of the early learning program is
9 achieved in the 2017-18 school year, at which time any eligible child
10 shall be entitled to be enrolled in the program.

11 (6) The department and the office of financial management shall
12 annually review the caseload forecasts for the program and, beginning
13 December 1, 2012, and annually thereafter, report to the governor and
14 the appropriate committees of the legislature with recommendations for
15 phasing in additional funding necessary to achieve statewide
16 implementation in the 2017-18 school year.

17 (7) School districts and approved community-based early learning
18 providers may contract with the department to provide services under
19 the program. The department shall collaborate with school districts,
20 community-based providers, and educational service districts to promote
21 an adequate supply of approved providers.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.320
23 RCW to read as follows:

24 For the program of early learning established in section 3 of this
25 act, school districts:

26 (1) Shall work cooperatively with program providers to coordinate
27 the transition from preschool to kindergarten so that children and
28 their families are well-prepared and supported; and

29 (2) May contract with the department of early learning to deliver
30 services under the program.

31 **Sec. 7.** RCW 43.215.020 and 2007 c 394 s 5 are each amended to read
32 as follows:

33 (1) The department of early learning is created as an executive
34 branch agency. The department is vested with all powers and duties
35 transferred to it under this chapter and such other powers and duties
36 as may be authorized by law.

1 (2) The primary duties of the department are to implement state
2 early learning policy and to coordinate, consolidate, and integrate
3 child care and early learning programs in order to administer programs
4 and funding as efficiently as possible. The department's duties
5 include, but are not limited to, the following:

6 (a) To support both public and private sectors toward a
7 comprehensive and collaborative system of early learning that serves
8 parents, children, and providers and to encourage best practices in
9 child care and early learning programs;

10 (b) To make early learning resources available to parents and
11 caregivers;

12 (c) To carry out activities, including providing clear and easily
13 accessible information about quality and improving the quality of early
14 learning opportunities for young children, in cooperation with the
15 nongovernmental private-public partnership;

16 (d) To administer child care and early learning programs;

17 (e) To standardize internal financial audits, oversight visits,
18 performance benchmarks, and licensing criteria, so that programs can
19 function in an integrated fashion;

20 (f) To support the implementation of the nongovernmental private-
21 public partnership and cooperate with that partnership in pursuing its
22 goals including providing data and support necessary for the successful
23 work of the partnership;

24 (g) To work cooperatively and in coordination with the early
25 learning council;

26 (h) To collaborate with the K-12 school system at the state and
27 local levels to ensure appropriate connections and smooth transitions
28 between early learning and K-12 programs; (~~and~~)

29 (i) To develop and adopt rules for administration of the program of
30 early learning established in section 3 of this act; and

31 (j) Upon the development of an early learning information system,
32 to make available to parents timely inspection and licensing action
33 information through the internet and other means.

34 (3) The department's programs shall be designed in a way that
35 respects and preserves the ability of parents and legal guardians to
36 direct the education, development, and upbringing of their children.
37 The department shall include parents and legal guardians in the
38 development of policies and program decisions affecting their children.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS. The director of
2 the department of early learning shall develop recommendations,
3 including proposed legislation as appropriate and necessary, to achieve
4 statewide implementation of the program of early learning established
5 in section 3 of this act for children three and four years of age. The
6 director shall report to the appropriate committees of the legislature
7 by January 1, 2011 regarding:

8 (1) Program standards for a developmentally appropriate curriculum;

9 (2) Service standards for family support and health-related
10 services;

11 (3) A plan for providing technical assistance necessary to support
12 providers delivering services in early childhood education and
13 assistance programs and head start programs in becoming approved
14 providers of the program;

15 (4) A strategy to optimize phased implementation of the program on
16 a schedule substantially similar to the implementation of full day
17 kindergarten after a review of the locations where early childhood
18 education and assistance programs are operating;

19 (5) Options for developing socioeconomically diverse, mixed
20 classrooms; and

21 (6) Recommendations for naming the program.

22 **Sec. 9.** RCW 43.215.405 and 2006 c 265 s 210 are each amended to
23 read as follows:

24 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in
25 this section apply throughout RCW 43.215.400 through 43.215.450 and
26 43.215.900 through 43.215.903.

27 (1) "Advisory committee" means the advisory committee under RCW
28 43.215.420.

29 (2) "Department" means the department of early learning.

30 (3) "Eligible child" means a child not eligible for kindergarten
31 whose family income is at or below one hundred ten percent of the
32 federal poverty level, as published annually by the federal department
33 of health and human services, and includes a child whose family is
34 eligible for public assistance, and who is not a participant in a
35 federal or state program providing comprehensive services; a child
36 eligible for special education due to disability under RCW 28A.155.020;
37 and may include children who are eligible under rules adopted by the

1 department if the number of such children equals not more than ten
2 percent of the total enrollment in the early childhood program.
3 Priority for enrollment shall be given to children from families with
4 the lowest income, children in foster care, or to eligible children
5 from families with multiple needs.

6 (4) "Approved programs" means those state-supported education and
7 special assistance programs which are recognized by the department as
8 meeting the minimum program rules adopted by the department to qualify
9 under RCW 43.215.400 through 43.215.450 and 43.215.900 through
10 43.215.903 and are designated as eligible for funding by the department
11 under RCW 43.215.430 and 43.215.440.

12 (5) "Comprehensive" means an assistance program that focuses on the
13 needs of the child and includes education, health, and family support
14 services.

15 (6) "Family support services" means providing opportunities for
16 parents to:

- 17 (a) Actively participate in their child's early childhood program;
- 18 (b) Increase their knowledge of child development and parenting
19 skills;
- 20 (c) Further their education and training;
- 21 (d) Increase their ability to use needed services in the community;
- 22 (e) Increase their self-reliance.

23 **Sec. 10.** RCW 43.215.405 and 2006 c 265 s 210 are each amended to
24 read as follows:

25 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in
26 this section apply throughout RCW 43.215.400 through 43.215.450 and
27 43.215.900 through 43.215.903.

28 (1) "Advisory committee" means the advisory committee under RCW
29 43.215.420.

30 (2) "Department" means the department of early learning.

31 (3) "Eligible child" means a child not eligible for kindergarten
32 whose family income is at or below one hundred ten percent of the
33 federal poverty level, as published annually by the federal department
34 of health and human services, and includes a child whose family is
35 eligible for public assistance, and who is not a participant in a
36 federal or state program providing comprehensive services, ~~and ((may~~
37 ~~include children who are eligible under rules adopted by the department~~

1 ~~if the number of such children equals not more than ten percent of the~~
2 ~~total enrollment in the early childhood program))~~ a child eligible for
3 special education due to disability under RCW 28A.155.020. Priority
4 for enrollment shall be given to children from families with the lowest
5 income, children in foster care, or to eligible children from families
6 with multiple needs.

7 (4) "Approved programs" means those state-supported education and
8 special assistance programs which are recognized by the department as
9 meeting the minimum program rules adopted by the department to qualify
10 under RCW 43.215.400 through 43.215.450 and 43.215.900 through
11 43.215.903 and are designated as eligible for funding by the department
12 under RCW 43.215.430 and 43.215.440.

13 (5) "Comprehensive" means an assistance program that focuses on the
14 needs of the child and includes education, health, and family support
15 services.

16 (6) "Family support services" means providing opportunities for
17 parents to:

- 18 (a) Actively participate in their child's early childhood program;
- 19 (b) Increase their knowledge of child development and parenting
20 skills;
- 21 (c) Further their education and training;
- 22 (d) Increase their ability to use needed services in the community;
- 23 (e) Increase their self-reliance.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** The joint recommendations from the
25 department of early learning, the superintendent of public instruction,
26 and thrive by five, Washington, to the governor in December 2009, and
27 the recommendations from the quality education council to the
28 legislature in January 2010, both supported implementation of a
29 voluntary program of early learning within the overall program of basic
30 education. The legislature intends to direct further examination of
31 these recommendations and Attorney General Opinion Number 8 (2009)
32 through the convening of a working group to prepare a comprehensive
33 plan for implementation of a voluntary, universal preschool program.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** (1) Beginning April 1, 2010, the department
35 of early learning, in collaboration with the office of the
36 superintendent of public instruction, shall convene a working group to

1 develop recommendations for implementing a voluntary, universal
2 preschool program for children ages three and four. Recognizing the
3 program of early learning established in section 3 of this act, the
4 working group shall prepare a proposal for implementing a voluntary
5 universal prekindergarten program accessible to all three and four year
6 olds in Washington. The working group also shall examine the
7 opportunities and barriers of establishing a program of early learning
8 under the program of basic education.

9 (2) The working group shall develop recommendations for the phased
10 implementation of a voluntary, universal prekindergarten program,
11 including recommendations relating to the following elements:

12 (a) Criteria for eligible children;
13 (b) Program standards for a developmentally appropriate curriculum
14 to include:

15 (i) Physical well-being, health, and motor development;
16 (ii) Social and emotional development;
17 (iii) Cognition and general knowledge; and
18 (iv) Language, literacy, numeracy, and communication;

19 (c) Service standards for family support and health-related
20 services to include:

21 (i) Working with parents to access appropriate medical, dental, and
22 other health screenings for children;

23 (ii) Providing opportunities for parental involvement, education,
24 and leadership development; and

25 (iii) Family contact designed to assist the child's family in:

26 (A) Assessing family strengths and needs;
27 (B) Setting family goals and reviewing progress;
28 (C) Accessing community resources; and
29 (D) Coordinating transitions between the program, child care, home,
30 and kindergarten;

31 (d) Criteria for eligible providers;

32 (e) Governance responsibilities for the superintendent of public
33 instruction and the department of early learning;

34 (f) Funding necessary for implementation, including professional
35 development, facilities, and technical assistance;

36 (g) An implementation timeline;

37 (h) The need for transportation services for the program based on

1 an analysis of the transportation services and arrangements being used
2 in early childhood education and assistance programs and the need to
3 address future transportation services;

4 (i) Options for developing socioeconomically diverse classrooms;
5 and

6 (j) One or more sliding scale fee structures for possible use in
7 the program of early learning established in section 3 of this act, and
8 in the voluntary, universal preschool program for which a comprehensive
9 plan is required under this section.

10 (3) While developing the plan, the working group shall review early
11 learning programs in Washington, including the early childhood
12 education and assistance program and the federal head start program, as
13 well as voluntary, universal programs in other states.

14 (4) Membership of the working group shall include:

15 (a) One or more representatives from the following: The department
16 of early learning; the office of the superintendent of public
17 instruction; the nongovernmental private-public partnership created in
18 RCW 43.215.070; and the office of the attorney general;

19 (b) Two members of the early learning advisory council established
20 in RCW 43.215.090, to be appointed by the council; and

21 (c) Additional stakeholders with expertise in early learning to be
22 appointed by the early learning advisory council.

23 (5) The working group shall consult with the achievement gap
24 oversight and accountability committee established in RCW 28A.300.136,
25 and may convene advisory subgroups on specific topics as necessary to
26 assure participation and input from a broad array of diverse
27 stakeholders.

28 (6) The working group shall submit a brief progress report by July
29 1, 2011, and final report with the comprehensive plan by October 1,
30 2011, to the legislature, the governor, the early learning advisory
31 council, and the quality education council established in RCW
32 28A.290.010.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 13.** The superintendent of public instruction,
34 the director of the department of early learning, and the director of
35 the office of financial management, or their respective designees,
36 shall report to the appropriate committees of the legislature by

1 January 1, 2012, with recommendations for a budgeting and funding
2 allocation method consistent with the recommendations developed under
3 section 12 of this act.

4 **Sec. 14.** RCW 43.215.090 and 2007 c 394 s 3 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) The early learning advisory council is established to advise
7 the department on statewide early learning (~~((community needs and
8 progress))~~) issues that would build a comprehensive system of quality
9 early learning programs and services for Washington's children and
10 families by assessing needs and the availability of services, aligning
11 resources, developing plans for data collection and professional
12 development of early childhood educators, and establishing key
13 performance measures.

14 (2) The council shall work in conjunction with the department to
15 develop a statewide early learning plan that (~~((crosses systems and
16 sectors to promote))~~) guides the department in promoting alignment of
17 private and public sector actions, objectives, and resources, and (~~((to
18 ensure))~~) ensuring school readiness.

19 (3) The council shall include diverse, statewide representation
20 from public, nonprofit, and for-profit entities. Its membership shall
21 reflect regional, racial, and cultural diversity to adequately
22 represent the needs of all children and families in the state.

23 (4) Council members shall serve two-year terms. However, to
24 stagger the terms of the council, the initial appointments for twelve
25 of the members shall be for one year. Once the initial one-year to
26 two-year terms expire, all subsequent terms shall be for two years,
27 with the terms expiring on June 30th of the applicable year. The terms
28 shall be staggered in such a way that, where possible, the terms of
29 members representing a specific group do not expire simultaneously.

30 (5) The council shall consist of not more than (~~((twenty-five))~~)
31 twenty-three members, as follows:

32 (a) The governor shall appoint at least one representative from
33 each of the following: The department, the office of financial
34 management, the department of social and health services, the
35 department of health, the higher education coordinating board, and the
36 state board for community and technical colleges;

1 (b) One representative from the office of the superintendent of
2 public instruction, to be appointed by the superintendent of public
3 instruction;

4 (c) The governor shall appoint (~~at least~~) seven leaders in early
5 childhood education, with at least one representative with experience
6 or expertise in each of the areas such as the following (~~areas~~):
7 Children with disabilities, the K-12 system, family day care providers,
8 and child care centers;

9 (d) Two members of the house of representatives, one from each
10 caucus, and two members of the senate, one from each caucus, to be
11 appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives and the
12 president of the senate, respectively;

13 (e) Two parents, one of whom serves on the department's parent
14 advisory council, to be appointed by the governor;

15 (f) (~~Two~~) One representative(~~s~~) of the private-public
16 partnership created in RCW 43.215.070, to be appointed by the
17 partnership board;

18 (g) One representative designated by sovereign tribal governments;
19 and

20 (h) One representative from the Washington federation of
21 independent schools.

22 (6) The council shall be cochaired by one representative of a state
23 agency and one nongovernmental member, to be elected by the council for
24 two-year terms.

25 (7) The council shall appoint two members and stakeholders with
26 expertise in early learning to serve on the working group created in
27 section 12, chapter . . . , Laws of 2010 (section 12 of this act).

28 (8) Each member of the board shall be compensated in accordance
29 with RCW 43.03.240 and reimbursed for travel expenses incurred in
30 carrying out the duties of the board in accordance with RCW 43.03.050
31 and 43.03.060.

32 (~~(+8)~~) (9) The department shall provide staff support to the
33 council.

34 **Sec. 15.** RCW 28A.290.010 and 2009 c 548 s 114 are each amended to
35 read as follows:

36 (1) The quality education council is created to recommend and
37 inform the ongoing implementation by the legislature of an evolving

1 program of basic education and the financing necessary to support such
2 program. The council shall develop strategic recommendations on the
3 program of basic education for the common schools. The council shall
4 take into consideration the capacity report produced under RCW
5 28A.300.172 and the availability of data and progress of implementing
6 the data systems required under RCW 28A.655.210. Any recommendations
7 for modifications to the program of basic education shall be based on
8 evidence that the programs effectively support student learning. The
9 council shall update the statewide strategic recommendations every four
10 years. The recommendations of the council are intended to:

11 (a) Inform future educational policy and funding decisions of the
12 legislature and governor;

13 (b) Identify measurable goals and priorities for the educational
14 system in Washington state for a ten-year time period, including the
15 goals of basic education and ongoing strategies for coordinating
16 statewide efforts to eliminate the achievement gap and reduce student
17 dropout rates; and

18 (c) Enable the state of Washington to continue to implement an
19 evolving program of basic education.

20 (2) The council may request updates and progress reports from the
21 office of the superintendent of public instruction, the state board of
22 education, the professional educator standards board, and the
23 department of early learning on the work of the agencies as well as
24 educational working groups established by the legislature.

25 (3) The chair of the council shall be selected from the
26 councilmembers. The council shall be composed of the following
27 members:

28 (a) Four members of the house of representatives, with two members
29 representing each of the major caucuses and appointed by the speaker of
30 the house of representatives;

31 (b) Four members of the senate, with two members representing each
32 of the major caucuses and appointed by the president of the senate; and

33 (c) One representative each from the office of the governor, office
34 of the superintendent of public instruction, state board of education,
35 professional educator standards board, and department of early
36 learning.

37 (4) In the 2009 fiscal year, the council shall meet as often as

1 necessary as determined by the chair. In subsequent years, the council
2 shall meet no more than four times a year.

3 (5)(a) The council shall submit an initial report to the governor
4 and the legislature by January 1, 2010, detailing its recommendations,
5 including recommendations for resolving issues or decisions requiring
6 legislative action during the 2010 legislative session, and
7 recommendations for any funding necessary to continue development and
8 implementation of chapter 548, Laws of 2009.

9 (b) The initial report shall, at a minimum, include:

10 (i) Consideration of how to establish a statewide beginning teacher
11 mentoring and support system;

12 (ii) Recommendations for a program of early learning for at-risk
13 children;

14 (iii) A recommended schedule for the concurrent phase-in of the
15 changes to the instructional program of basic education and the
16 implementation of the funding formulas and allocations to support the
17 new instructional program of basic education as established under
18 chapter 548, Laws of 2009. The phase-in schedule shall have full
19 implementation completed by September 1, 2018; and

20 (iv) A recommended schedule for phased-in implementation of the new
21 distribution formula for allocating state funds to school districts for
22 the transportation of students to and from school, with phase-in
23 beginning no later than September 1, 2013.

24 (6) After receiving the comprehensive plan required under section
25 12, chapter . . ., Laws of 2010 (section 12 of this act), the council
26 shall develop recommendations for incorporating the plan into the
27 strategic recommendations required under subsection (1) of this section
28 and submit a report to the legislature by January 1, 2011.

29 (7) The council shall be staffed by the office of the
30 superintendent of public instruction and the office of financial
31 management. Additional staff support shall be provided by the state
32 entities with representatives on the (~~committee~~) council. Senate
33 committee services and the house of representatives office of program
34 research may provide additional staff support.

35 ((+7)) (8) Legislative members of the council shall serve without
36 additional compensation but may be reimbursed for travel expenses in
37 accordance with RCW 44.04.120 while attending sessions of the council

1 or on official business authorized by the council. Nonlegislative
2 members of the council may be reimbursed for travel expenses in
3 accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 16.** Sections 2 through 5 and 19 of this act are
5 each added to chapter 43.215 RCW.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 17.** Section 9 of this act expires September 1,
7 2011.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 18.** Section 10 of this act takes effect
9 September 1, 2011.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 19.** Sections 1 through 5 of this act may be
11 known as the ready for school act of 2010."

12 Correct the title.

EFFECT: (1) Establishes a voluntary program of early learning for
3 and 4 year olds, to begin September 1, 2011, and declares that when
fully implemented in the 2017-18 school year, the program shall be an
entitlement program for eligible children.

(2) Specifies that for the first phase of implementation, the
program standards, service standards, and eligibility criteria used for
the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) will be
applied.

(3) Revises ECEAP eligibility standards to include a child who
qualifies for special education services.

(4) Requires that funding for the program in the 2011-2013 biennium
be not less than the funding provided for the ECEAP in the 2009-2011
biennium and be sufficient to fund an equivalent number of slots.

(5) Directs additional funding to be phased-in beginning in the
2013-14 school year.

(6) Directs the program expansion to be in school districts where
full-day kindergarten is being provided, in order to maximize gains
resulting from those investments.

(7) Directs the program to be fully implemented by the 2017-18
school year.

(8) Vests governance and rule-making authority with the DEL.

(9) Requires recommendations to the Legislature from the DEL
regarding program standards, service standards, and eligibility
criteria to be used for subsequent phases of the program beginning in
the 2013-2015 biennium.

(10) Requires annual forecasting and reporting to the Governor and Legislature regarding caseloads and funding recommendations to achieve full implementation by the 2017-18 school year.

(11) Effective September 1, 2011, revises ECEAP eligibility standards to remove flexibility for up to 10% of enrollments.

(12) Establishes a working group to develop a comprehensive plan for the phase-in of a voluntary, universal preschool program.

(13) Requires the working group consult with the Achievement Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee, and directs the group to be convened by the DEL in collaboration with the OSPI.

(14) Requires that the comprehensive plan be developed with recognition of the program established effective September 1, 2011, for children from low-income households and children eligible for special education.

(15) Requires an update from the working group by July 1, 2011, and a final report to the Legislature, the Governor, the Quality Education Council (QEC), and the Early Learning Advisory Council by October 1, 2011.

(16) Requires development of recommendations for a budgeting and funding allocation method based on enrolled eligible students consistent with the comprehensive plan prepared by the working group.

(17) Directs the QEC to report to the Legislature by January 1, 2012, with recommendations for incorporating the comprehensive plan for implementation of a voluntary, universal preschool into the QEC's strategic recommendations on the program of basic education for the common schools.

(18) Directs the working group also to examine opportunities and barriers of including such a program in the program of basic education.

(19) Names the act the Ready for School Act of 2010.

--- END ---