
SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5820

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Senate Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Nguyen, Randall, Hasegawa, Keiser, Hunt, Kuderer, and Wilson, C.)

READ FIRST TIME 03/01/19.

1 AN ACT Relating to increasing eligibility for child care and
2 early learning programs for homeless and other vulnerable children;
3 and amending RCW 43.216.135.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.216.135 and 2018 c 52 s 6 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1) The department shall establish and implement policies in the
8 working connections child care program to promote stability and
9 quality of care for children from low-income households. These
10 policies shall focus on supporting school readiness for young
11 learners. Policies for the expenditure of funds constituting the
12 working connections child care program must be consistent with the
13 outcome measures established by the department and the standards
14 established in this section intended to promote stability, quality,
15 and continuity of early care and education programming.

16 (2) As recommended by Public Law 113-186, authorizations for the
17 working connections child care subsidy shall be effective for twelve
18 months beginning July 1, 2016, unless an earlier date is provided in
19 the omnibus appropriations act.

1 (3) Existing child care providers serving nonschool-age children
2 and receiving state subsidy payments must complete the following
3 requirements to be eligible for a state subsidy under this section:

4 (a) Enroll in the early achievers program by August 1, 2016;

5 (b) Complete level 2 activities in the early achievers program by
6 August 1, 2017; and

7 (c) Rate at a level 3 or higher in the early achievers program by
8 December 31, 2019. If a child care provider rates below a level 3 by
9 December 31, 2019, the provider must complete remedial activities
10 with the department, and rate at a level 3 or higher no later than
11 June 30, 2020.

12 (4) Effective July 1, 2016, a new child care provider serving
13 nonschool-age children and receiving state subsidy payments must
14 complete the following activities to be eligible to receive a state
15 subsidy under this section:

16 (a) Enroll in the early achievers program within thirty days of
17 receiving the initial state subsidy payment;

18 (b) Complete level 2 activities in the early achievers program
19 within twelve months of enrollment; and

20 (c) Rate at a level 3 or higher in the early achievers program
21 within thirty months of enrollment. If a child care provider rates
22 below a level 3 within thirty months from enrollment into the early
23 achievers program, the provider must complete remedial activities
24 with the department, and rate at a level 3 or higher within six
25 months of beginning remedial activities.

26 (5) If a child care provider does not rate at a level 3 or higher
27 following the remedial period, the provider is no longer eligible to
28 receive state subsidy under this section.

29 (6) If a child care provider serving nonschool-age children and
30 receiving state subsidy payments has successfully completed all level
31 2 activities and is waiting to be rated by the deadline provided in
32 this section, the provider may continue to receive a state subsidy
33 pending the successful completion of the level 3 rating activity.

34 (7) The department shall implement tiered reimbursement for early
35 achievers program participants in the working connections child care
36 program rating at level 3, 4, or 5.

37 (8) The department shall account for a child care copayment
38 collected by the provider from the family for each contracted slot
39 and establish the copayment fee by rule.

1 (9) (a) The department shall establish and implement policies in
2 the working connections child care program to allow eligibility for
3 families with children who:

4 (i) In the last six months have:

5 (A) Received child protective services as defined and used by
6 chapters 26.44 and 74.13 RCW;

7 (B) Received child welfare services as defined and used by
8 chapter 74.13 RCW; or

9 (C) Received services through a family assessment response as
10 defined and used by chapter 26.44 RCW;

11 (ii) Have been referred for child care as part of the family's
12 case management as defined by RCW 74.13.020; and

13 (iii) Are residing with a biological parent or guardian.

14 (b) Children who are eligible for working connections child care
15 pursuant to this subsection do not have to keep receiving services
16 identified in this subsection to maintain twelve-month authorization.
17 The department of social and health services' involvement with the
18 family referred for working connections child care ends when the
19 family's child protective services, child welfare services, or family
20 assessment response case is closed.

21 (10) (a) The department shall designate homeless children as a
22 vulnerable population pursuant to 45 C.F.R. Sec. 98.20 as it existed
23 on January 1, 2019, to allow eligibility and twelve-month
24 authorizations for working connections child care subsidies for
25 homeless children.

26 (b) For purposes of this subsection, "homeless" means without a
27 fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence as set forth in the
28 federal McKinney-Vento homeless assistance act, P.L. 100-77, July 22,
29 1987, 101 Stat. 482, and runaway and homeless youth act, P.L. 93-415,
30 Title III, September 7, 1974, 88 Stat. 1129.

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