
HOUSE BILL 1649

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Representatives Dent, Eslick, Penner, Burnett, Jacobsen, and Graham

Read first time 01/28/25. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & Human Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to child care provider qualifications, including
2 redesigning the community-based training pathway for licensed child
3 care providers; amending RCW 43.216.755; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the current
6 community-based training pathway for licensed child care providers to
7 meet professional education requirements required for licensure,
8 called provider access to a community equivalent or PACE, is
9 underutilized. This community-based pathway is not as accessible as
10 it should be and many individuals drop out of this program based on
11 the overly rigorous curriculum and significant time commitment.

12 The legislature further finds that the building bridges
13 community-based pathway that was discontinued due to lack of funding
14 was an effective community-based pathway that could allow more
15 individuals to meet professional education requirements required for
16 licensure. For those reasons, the legislature intends for the
17 department of children, youth, and families to redesign the current
18 community-based training pathway based on the building bridges
19 curriculum.

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.216.755 and 2020 c 342 s 2 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 (1) By ~~((July))~~ August 1, ((2021)) 2025, the department shall
4 implement a redesigned noncredit-bearing, community-based training
5 pathway for licensed child care providers to meet professional
6 education requirements associated with child care licensure that is
7 modeled after the building bridges community-based pathway. The
8 community-based training pathway must be offered as an alternative to
9 existing credit-bearing pathways available to providers, and will
10 replace the provider access to a community equivalent pathway.

11 (2) The department shall consult with the following stakeholders
12 in the development and implementation of the community-based training
13 pathway: The statewide child care resource and referral network, a
14 community-based training organization that provides training to
15 licensed family day care providers, a statewide organization that
16 represents the interests of family day care providers, a statewide
17 organization that represents the interests of licensed child day care
18 centers, an organization that represents the interests of refugee and
19 immigrant communities, a bilingual child care provider whose first
20 language is not English, an organization that advocates for early
21 learning, an organization representing private and independent
22 schools, and the state board for community and technical colleges.

23 (3) The community-based training pathway must:

24 (a) Align with adopted core competencies for early learning
25 professionals;

26 (b) Be made available to providers in multiple languages;

27 (c) Include culturally relevant practices; ~~((and))~~

28 (d) Be made available at low cost to providers and at prices
29 comparable to the cost of similar community-based trainings, not to
30 exceed ~~((two hundred and fifty dollars))~~ \$250 per person; ~~((and))~~

31 (e) Be accessible to providers in rural and urban settings; and

32 (f) Be made available in the communities where child care centers
33 operate and in an online format.

34 (4) The department shall allow licensed child care providers
35 until at least August 1, ~~((2026))~~ 2035, or until at least 10 years
36 following the full implementation by the department of all components
37 of the community-based training pathway, whichever is later, to:

38 (a) Comply with child care licensing rules that require a
39 provider to hold an early childhood education initial certificate

1 ~~((or))~~, an early childhood education short certificate~~((;or))~~, or an
2 early childhood education state certificate;

3 (b) Complete community-based pathway trainings; or

4 (c) Demonstrate to the department work experience-based
5 competency after having worked in a licensed child care setting for
6 at least three years, which is not required to be a continuous three-
7 year period, but could include multiple periods of work in a licensed
8 child care setting at different times.

9 (5) ~~((For the purposes of this section, "demonstrated competence"~~
10 ~~means an individual has shown that he or she has the skills to~~
11 ~~complete the required work independently.))~~ The department may not
12 require licensed child care providers to complete annual in-service
13 training requirements in order to demonstrate work experience-based
14 competency described under subsection (4)(c) of this section.

--- END ---