

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6419

Chapter 155, Laws of 2018

65th Legislature
2018 Regular Session

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND ASSISTANCE PROGRAM--ELIGIBILITY

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2018

Passed by the Senate March 6, 2018
Yeas 48 Nays 1

CYRUS HABIB

President of the Senate

Passed by the House March 1, 2018
Yeas 70 Nays 28

FRANK CHOPP

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Approved March 21, 2018 12:11 PM

JAY INSLEE

Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

I, Brad Hendrickson, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6419** as passed by Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

BRAD HENDRICKSON

Secretary

FILED

March 23, 2018

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6419

AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

Passed Legislature - 2018 Regular Session

State of Washington 65th Legislature 2018 Regular Session

By Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education (originally sponsored by Senators Rolfes, Zeiger, Billig, Wellman, Conway, Darneille, Kuderer, Palumbo, and Walsh)

READ FIRST TIME 02/02/18.

1 AN ACT Relating to promoting access to the Washington early
2 childhood education and assistance program; amending RCW 43.216.555;
3 adding new sections to chapter 43.216 RCW; creating a new section;
4 and providing an effective date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that research
7 continues to demonstrate the efficacy of the state's early childhood
8 education and assistance program, known as ECEAP. Studies in
9 Washington and from other states show that ECEAP prepares children
10 for kindergarten success and has significant positive impacts on
11 third, fourth, and fifth grade test scores. The legislature also
12 finds that in some areas of the state, expanding ECEAP has proven
13 challenging because there are too few eligible children to form an
14 ECEAP classroom. The result is that children who are income eligible
15 and the furthest from opportunity remain unserved. The legislature
16 finds further that in other ECEAP classrooms, funded seats remain
17 empty because providers do not have sufficient flexibility to serve
18 families in need who are slightly over income but often have similar
19 risk factors. The legislature intends, therefore, to provide more
20 flexibility in determining eligibility for ECEAP in order to maximize

1 the state's investment and assure that program funding is deployed to
2 serve the greatest number of children and families.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.216
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 (1) The department shall adopt rules that allow the inclusion of
6 children in the early childhood education and assistance program
7 whose family income is above one hundred ten percent of the federal
8 poverty level if the number of such children equals not more than
9 twenty-five percent of total statewide enrollment.

10 (2) Children included in the early childhood education and
11 assistance program under this section must be homeless or impacted by
12 specific developmental or environmental risk factors that are linked
13 by research to school performance. "Homeless" means without a fixed,
14 regular, and adequate nighttime residence as set forth in the federal
15 McKinney-Vento homeless assistance act, P.L. 100-77, July 22, 1987,
16 101 Stat. 482, and runaway and homeless youth act, P.L. 93-415, Title
17 III, September 7, 1974, 88 Stat. 1129.

18 (3) Children included in the early childhood education and
19 assistance program under this section are not to be considered
20 eligible children as defined in RCW 43.216.505 and are not considered
21 to be part of the state-funded entitlement required in RCW
22 43.216.556.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 43.216
24 RCW to read as follows:

25 (1) The department shall prioritize children for enrollment in
26 the early childhood education and assistance program who are eligible
27 pursuant to RCW 43.216.505.

28 (2) As space is available, children may be included in the early
29 childhood education and assistance program pursuant to section 2 of
30 this act. Priority within this group must be given to children who
31 are experiencing homelessness, child welfare system involvement, or a
32 developmental delay or disability that does not meet the eligibility
33 criteria for special education adopted under RCW 28A.155.020.

34 **Sec. 4.** RCW 43.216.555 and 2015 3rd sp.s. c 7 s 11 are each
35 amended to read as follows:

36 (1) Beginning September 1, 2011, an early learning program to
37 provide voluntary preschool opportunities for children three and four

1 years of age shall be implemented according to the funding and
2 implementation plan in RCW ((43.215.456)) 43.216.556. The program
3 must offer a comprehensive program of early childhood education and
4 family support, including parental involvement and health
5 information, screening, and referral services, based on family need.
6 Participation in the program is voluntary. On a space available
7 basis, the program may allow enrollment of children who are not
8 otherwise eligible by assessing a fee.

9 (2) The program shall be implemented by utilizing the program
10 standards and eligibility criteria in the early childhood education
11 and assistance program in RCW ((43.215.400)) 43.216.500 through
12 ((43.215.450)) 43.216.550.

13 (3)(a) Beginning in the 2015-16 school year, the program
14 implementation in this section shall prioritize early childhood
15 education and assistance programs located in low-income neighborhoods
16 within high-need geographical areas.

17 (b) Following the priority in (a) of this subsection, preference
18 shall be given to programs meeting at least one of the following
19 characteristics:

20 (i) Programs offering an extended day program for early care and
21 education;

22 (ii) Programs offering services to children diagnosed with a
23 special need; or

24 (iii) Programs offering services to children involved in the
25 child welfare system.

26 (4) The ((director)) secretary shall adopt rules for the
27 following program components, as appropriate and necessary during the
28 phased implementation of the program, consistent with early achievers
29 program standards established in RCW ((43.215.100)) 43.216.085:

30 (a) Minimum program standards;

31 (b) Approval of program providers; and

32 (c) Accountability and adherence to performance standards.

33 (5) The department has administrative responsibility for:

34 (a) Approving and contracting with providers according to rules
35 developed by the ((director)) secretary under this section;

36 (b) In partnership with school districts, monitoring program
37 quality and assuring the program is responsive to the needs of
38 eligible children;

39 (c) Assuring that program providers work cooperatively with
40 school districts to coordinate the transition from preschool to

1 kindergarten so that children and their families are well-prepared
2 and supported; and
3 (d) Providing technical assistance to contracted providers.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act takes effect July 1, 2018.

Passed by the Senate March 6, 2018.

Passed by the House March 1, 2018.

Approved by the Governor March 21, 2018.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 23, 2018.

--- END ---