

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 6018

---

---

As of January 16, 2024

**Title:** An act relating to early learning coordinators at educational service districts.

**Brief Description:** Designating early learning coordinators at educational service districts.

**Sponsors:** Senators Wilson, C., Torres, Hasegawa, Nobles, Salomon and Wellman.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Early Learning & K-12 Education: 1/18/24.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Requires each educational service district to designate an early learning coordinator to support increased collaboration, recruitment, enrollment, and service delivery across Washington's prekindergarten through third grade continuum.
- Specifies certain minimum duties for these early learning coordinators.

---

### SENATE COMMITTEE ON EARLY LEARNING & K-12 EDUCATION

**Staff:** Ailey Kato (786-7434)

**Background:** Educational Service Districts. State law requires the nine educational service districts (ESDs) to lead certain coordination efforts including coordinating supports related to behavioral health and school-based threat assessments.

Early Learning Programs. A variety of early learning programs serve children ages three and four. According to a 2021 report published by the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) and the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) titled "Integrated Pre-K - Aligning and Integrating Early Learning Programs," these early learning programs include:

---

*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

- Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program administered by DCYF;
- Head Start administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services;
- Preschool for students who have an Individualized Education Program administered by OSPI and the U.S. Department of Education;
- Transition to Kindergarten programs administered by OSPI;
- Title I prekindergarten classrooms administered by OSPI and the U.S. Department of Education;
- Working Connections Child Care administered by DCYF and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services;
- Licensed child care not receiving any subsidies; and
- Private kindergartens or preschools.

**Summary of Bill:** Subject to appropriations, each ESD must designate an early learning coordinator to support increased collaboration, recruitment, enrollment, and service delivery across Washington's prekindergarten through third grade continuum.

The coordinator has certain minimum duties including:

- facilitating and improving access to high-quality early learning programs and inclusive services;
- coordinating and collaborating with the statewide and regional child care resource and referral organizations, early learning providers in the community, school districts, OSPI, and other partners;
- providing technical assistance, training, and coaching on certain topics including:
  1. effective transitions;
  2. coordinated recruitment, student placement, enrollment, and implementation of various models of preschool programs;
  3. identification of available programs and slots and braiding funding;
  4. implementation of transition to kindergarten programs;
  5. developmentally appropriate instructional practices for all-day kindergarten; and
  6. strengthening alignment between grades; and
- supporting instructional leaders in improving student learning across prekindergarten through grade 12 within the early learning coordinator's local context including:
  1. implementation of the Washington kindergarten inventory of developing skills;
  2. school improvement requirements;
  3. the transitional bilingual instruction program;
  4. inclusion;
  5. multi-tiered systems of support; and
  6. the teacher and principal evaluation systems.

**Appropriation:** The bill contains a section or sections to limit implementation to the availability of amounts appropriated for that specific purpose.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on January 9, 2024.

**Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members:** No.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.