



2019 Legislative Agenda

The Early Learning Action Alliance looks forward to working with state policymakers to achieve the following policies and funding in the 2019 Legislative Session. These priorities will improve child outcomes and move Washington closer to a state where every young child has equitable access to the opportunity to succeed in school and in life.

All children and families in Washington should have access to affordable, high-quality child care that honors family choice. **To improve affordable access to child care**, the 2019-21 Operating Budget must:

- Increase Working Connections Child Care base rates to the 75th percentile of market rate.
- Expand access to Working Connections Child Care subsidy for low- and moderate-income families.
- Fully fund Early Achievers.
- Enable recruitment and retention of qualified early educators by taking meaningful steps forward in investments in compensation packages.

High quality preschool can close the school readiness gap and is out of reach for too many three- and four-year olds in Washington. **To expand access to high-quality preschool**, the 2019-21 Operating Budget must:

- Fund 3,600 additional Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) slots and increase the rate per slot by 17% to support equitable teacher salaries.
- Expand eligibility to ensure access for children who will benefit most.

Support parents as a child's first teacher. Continue to expand funding opportunities and a portfolio of home visiting across Washington state so children who benefit most have access. **To ensure children are provided robust opportunities from the start**, the 2019-21 Operating Budget must:

- Invest \$9 million in home visiting, a proven strategy to support new parents.

Increase funding for the **Early Learning Facilities Fund** in the Capital Budget.

Raise Revenue. New revenue is key to ensuring a great start for our kids.

The Early Learning Action Alliance is convened by the Children's Alliance.
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A great start for children promises more successful schools, stronger families, and a healthier economy.