



EARLY START ACT

In 2015, Washington's legislature passed and Governor Jay Inslee signed the [Early Start Act \(HB 1491\)](#). The bipartisan, historic Early Start Act enacts unprecedented policies and resources to help ensure all children a great start.

RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES

- ✓ Provides parents with information about the quality of early learning so that they can make informed choices for their children.
- ✓ Supports [continuity of care](#) so that children receive the consistent care essential for bonding and attachment and parents can count on stable care.
- ✓ Recognizes that high-quality early learning is culturally and linguistically responsive to the needs of families.

RESOURCES FOR EARLY LEARNING PROVIDERS

- ✓ Establishes unprecedented new resources for professionals including scholarships, grants, annual quality awards, and free training and coaching.
- ✓ Provides focused supports for providers serving children in low-income communities including:
 - Grants to purchase materials and supplies
 - Access to substitute teachers
 - Translation of materials into provider and family home languages
- ✓ Requires differentiated types and amounts of technical assistance and coaching based on individual provider need and cultural context.
- ✓ Provides consistent, predictable funding through 12 month child care subsidy enrollments.
- ✓ Increases subsidy payments to providers demonstrating high-quality.

- ✓ Requires a professional development pathway for providers that is culturally and linguistically reflective of their needs and demographics.
- ✓ Supports a system that providers and families can count on by providing funding to support quality in the maintenance level state budget.

ACCOUNTABILITY, OVERSIGHT AND REVIEW OF IMPACTS ON DIVERSE COMMUNITIES

- ✓ Requires that providers receiving public funds demonstrate high-quality through participation in [Early Achievers](#) and attainment of set quality levels.
- ✓ Requires an Early Achievers Review Subcommittee to review and inform the Department of Early Learning's ongoing Early Achievers implementation, with specific consideration of cultural and linguistic responsiveness.
- ✓ Requires ongoing annual reports to the legislature reviewing Early Achievers progress to ensure it is working in our diverse communities.
- ✓ Protects access to care by triggering a process to review barriers and mitigate impacts to children served if 15% or more providers in any county or zip code don't meet quality rating requirements after 2018.
- ✓ Directs that a joint select committee of the legislature meet in 2018 to review Early Achievers implementation, including adequacy of resources.
- ✓ Requires exploration of alternate quality assessment tools that meet the culturally specific needs of Washington Tribes.
- ✓ Directs collection and analysis of longitudinal data disaggregated by race/ethnicity focused on child outcomes.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[Legislative bill report.](#)

[Grid of key policy changes](#) included in the Early Start Act.

Children's Alliance [blog post](#) on passage of the Early Start Act.

Learn more by contacting Jennifer Jennings-Shaffer at (206) 324.0340 x21 or jennifer@childrensalliance.org