

**Agency:** 357 Department of Early Learning  
**Decision Package Code/Title:** RE 6.287% Reduction Redistribution  
**Budget Period:** 2009-11  
**Budget Level:** PL - Performance Level

**Recommendation Summary Text:**

The Department of Early Learning (DEL) was required to submit a 6.287% budget reduction. DEL is committed to prioritizing programs that directly affect children, particularly programs that serve vulnerable children with evidence-based services. Unfortunately, the across the board cuts required DEL take 6.287% from every proviso, resulting in a reduction of \$923,246 from the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP), a direct service program serving vulnerable children and families. This decision package proposes to further reduce the Career and Wage Program instead of reducing ECEAP. This will have a smaller impact on children.

**Fiscal Detail**

<b>Operating Expenditures</b>	<b><u>FY 2010</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2011</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
001-1 General Fund - Basic Account-State		(1,335,000)	(1,335,000)
<b>Total Cost</b>		<b>(1,335,000)</b>	<b>(1,335,000)</b>

**Package Description:**

DEL proposes the following reductions:

- Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP); Reduction: \$220,399. ECEAP offers comprehensive preschool services to at-risk 3- and 4-year-old children and their families. The across the board 6.287% reduction would reduce the ECEAP program by \$923,246. This cut would result in the reduction of about 139 ECEAP enrollment slots or ending the school year earlier. In this decision package, DEL proposes to reduce the cut to the ECEAP program and proposes an alternative reduction.

- Career and Wage Ladder Program (CWL); Reduction: \$750,000. The CWL offers wage supplements to child care center employees in certain programs around the state. DEL proposes to eliminate the state funding in Fiscal Year 2011. As outlined in RCW 43.215.505, the program provides supplemental funding for participating licensed child care centers that base staff wages on education, experience, and training. Over the past 10 years, the CWL program has given over \$12 million to early learning professionals for the purpose of improving educational levels and decreasing turnover. There are \$750,000 federal ARRA funds in the program that will continue to provide wage enhancements through January or February 2011.

The funds from eliminating the entire CWL will be used to offset the reduction to the ECEAP Program. DEL will search for additional dollars to fill the remaining ECEAP reduction. This will be done through administrative efficiencies and reductions, not filling vacancies, reducing a study, and other measures will be taken to not eliminate any slots for 3 and 4 year old children.

- Administration of Seasonal Child Care Subsidies; Reduction: \$254,057. This proposal eliminates the contracts with organizations that

conduct eligibility determination for families applying for seasonal child care subsidies. Funding for seasonal subsidies themselves are not being reduced. We are working to ensure families can use the Department of Social and Health Services call center for eligibility determination. Contracts will end in February or March 2011 as funds are depleted.

- Senate Bill 6759 Study; Reduction: \$50,000. This proposal eliminates the funding to complete the study required in Senate Bill 6759 around a voluntary program of early learning. DEL and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction have convened a work group overseen by the Quality Education Council. DEL and OSPI will complete the study with existing resources, which will mean the report will not include fiscal and research analyses.

- Home visiting; Reduction: \$31,435. DEL contracts with Thrive by Five Washington to fund home visiting services to children and families. This reduction will impact the number of families that can be served.

- Washington Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (WaKIDS); Reduction: \$3,144. This proposal reduces the administrative dollars to support the pilot project. The WaKIDS pilot is currently being piloted in 120 classrooms around the state.

- Parent support; Reduction: \$12,574. This proposal reduces the funds available to fund the Parent Advisory Group and family, friend and neighbors (FFN) services.

- Washington State Child Care Resource & Referral Network, (CCR&R); Reduction: \$13,391. The contract with the CCR&R through which we fund services to families and child care providers will be reduced effective December 1, 2010.

## **Narrative Justification and Impact Statement**

### ***What specific performance outcomes does the agency expect?***

Child Care Providers that participated in the Career and Wage program will be unable to continue paying the increased salary and benefits to child care workers. However, with this exchange of funding, ECEAP slots will not have to be eliminated.

### **Performance Measure Detail**

#### **Activity:**

#### **Incremental Changes**

No measures submitted for package

### ***Is this decision package essential to implement a strategy identified in the agency's strategic plan?***

Yes, DEL Strategic Goal #1 is "Provide high quality, safe and health early care and education opportunities for all children."

### ***Does this decision package provide essential support to one of the Governor's priorities?***

Yes, education is one of the Governor's highest priorities.

### ***Does this decision package make key contributions to statewide results? Would it rate as a high priority in the Priorities of Government process?***

Yes - ECEAP programs have demonstrated improvements to school readiness, health and safety for Washington's most vulnerable children.

### ***What are the other important connections or impacts related to this proposal?***

Reduction of ECEAP slots at this time would be very difficult. The slots have been established by contract with ECEAP providers and it would be impossible to reduce a slot here or there, because of the fixed costs ECEAP providers have. Ending the school year early may be problematic in that contracts with teachers and facilities have been negotiated.

***What alternatives were explored by the agency, and why was this alternative chosen?***

All of DEL state funded programs were reviewed for reduction or elimination. This reduction had the least impact on children, families and providers.

***What are the consequences of not funding this package?***

Some child care workers will see their salary and benefits reduced; however, ECEAP slots will be protected.

***What is the relationship, if any, to the state's capital budget?***

None

***What changes would be required to existing statutes, rules, or contracts, in order to implement the change?***

None

***Expenditure and revenue calculations and assumptions***

Goods and Services: -75,000 in FY11

Client Service Contracts: -1,260,000 in FY11

***Which costs and functions are one-time? Which are ongoing? What are the budget impacts in future biennia?***

These costs are on-going.

<b><u>Object Detail</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2010</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2011</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
E Goods And Services		(75,000)	(75,000)
N Grants, Benefits & Client Services		(1,260,000)	(1,260,000)
<b>Total Objects</b>		<b>(1,335,000)</b>	<b>(1,335,000)</b>

