



Early Learning Action Alliance 2009 Legislative Session Review

Bills

HB 2261 – Early Learning in Basic Education

PASSED without Section 115, EL workgroup for basic education. In an unanticipated, last-minute veto, Governor Gregoire removed the section of the bill that created a workgroup for early learning and included intent language for inclusion of early learning for at-risk three and four year olds in the definition of basic education. Section 114, which creates a Quality Education Council (QED) was retained and still names a program of early learning for at-risk three and four year olds among the items to be included in an initial report to the legislature by January 2010.

HB 1943 – Professional Development

PASSED unanimously in the legislature and was signed by the Governor. The bill requires the Professional Development Consortium, in collaboration with the DEL, to develop recommendations for a comprehensive statewide system of preparation and professional development for the early learning and school-age program workforce. Specific membership requirements must be met and a report with specific recommendations is due to the Legislature and the Governor with a brief status update on September 15, 2009, and provide final recommendations by December 31, 2010.

HB 1754 – Continuity of Care

DIED. This bill would have changed the reauthorization period for child care, increased the number of allowable sick days from 5 to 10 and capped co-pay at 10% of gross family monthly income. Later in session it was changed to be a planning bill with phased implementation, but it had a large fiscal note. Further research on the estimated costs of these policy changes is needed.

HB 1329 - Child Care Centers Collective Bargaining

DIED. This bill would have allowed child care center directors and staff to vote on forming a collective bargaining unit to negotiate with the state around subsidy rates, quality and professional training and standards and health care and other employee benefits with the state. During the course of session, this bill was amended to allow any center to opt-out of the bargaining agreement. It was later amended to be a study. Changes to the bill on the Senate floor resulting in broad confusion and conflicting amendments and the bill died.

Budget

Current Biennium

Total DEL Budget 2007-2009

	General State Fund	Other Funds	Total
2007-09 Biennial Budget	\$138,666,000	\$195,248,000	\$333,914,000

Supplemental Budget Cuts (2007-2009) including EHB 1694

Washington Head Start (HB3168)	(\$250,000)
QRIS Pilots	Approx (\$2.4 mil)
Tiered Reimbursement – transferred from DSHS in 2008 Supplemental Budget, not disbursed	(\$500k)
Child Care College Grants to public community and technically colleges and public universities (unspent from \$2.2 mil total)	(\$75k)
Career and Wage Ladder – not yet contracted	(\$100k)
Administrative Savings – across programs	(\$150k-\$200k)
Total	(\$3,875,000-3,925,000)
PSSB 5407/PSHB 1244 – Senate & House Supplemental Budget Bills	
CCDF Stimulus	\$8,500,000¹

¹Direction provided to DEL is that “[t]he department shall use this to assist low-income families, families receiving temporary public assistance, and those transitioning from public assistance in obtaining child care so they can work or attend training/education.” This number was adjusted down to reflect quality dollars being utilized in the 2009-2011 biennium rather than the current supplemental.



2009-2011 Biennial Budget

Early Learning 2009-2011 Maintenance compared to proposed budgets and final budget as passed by legislature and signed by Governor:

	DEL 2009-11 Maint	DEL Gov's Proposed	SENATE proposed	HOUSE proposed	CONF proposed	FINAL
State Funds	\$133,430,000	\$124,885,000	\$117,819,000	\$121,646,000	\$121,523,000	\$121,523,000
Other Funds	\$220,209,000	\$222,467,000	\$252,269,000	\$245,611,000	\$244,859,000	\$244,859,000
Total	\$353,639,000	\$347,352,000	\$370,088,000	\$367,257,000	\$366,382,000	\$366,382,000

Changes in 2009-2011 Budget as passed:

The Department of Early Learning (DEL) ended the 2009 legislative session with a loss of 27.7 FTEs (13.1%). The DEL budget was cut by 9.7% compared to 2009-11 maintenance levels, which includes federal stimulus funds. The legislature chose to spread out smaller cuts in early learning across the system rather than eliminating funding for specific programs which indicates an understanding of the interconnectedness of programs' effectiveness in early learning. While the cuts experienced in early learning were smaller relative to other areas, revenue is not expected to rise in 2010 and we may face further attempts to reduce early learning program funding in the next legislative session.

Program	Budget	2009-11 Maint	Final Change	Notes
Career and Wage Ladder	DEL	State:	\$3 mil (\$1.5 mil)	The Governor and Senate proposed elimination of CWL funding. The House proposed maintaining funding entirely through CCDBG federal stimulus funds. In the final budget, overall funding of \$3 million has been maintained, ½ in CCDBG federal stimulus, ½ in state general fund.
		Other:	\$0 \$1.5 mil (ARRA)	
Child Care Resource & Referral Network	DEL	State:	\$1.7 mil (\$850k)	The originally proposed Governor, House and Senate budgets eliminated state funding for R&R. However, the final budget maintains 2007-2009 level of state funds (\$1.7 million), using \$850k in state funds and \$850k in federal Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) quality set-aside funds through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). One-time investments made in FY 2008-2009 will not carry over to the next biennium: approximately \$870k annual federal earmark and a one-time private fund balance contribution of \$250k, making the total biennial loss in one-time federal appropriations approximately \$2.3 million
		Other:	\$7.9 ² \$850k (ARRA)	
Council for Children & Families (CCF)	DSHS – Admin & Support Services	State:	\$7.1 mil ³ CCF: (\$1.492 mil)	The Governor proposed elimination of CCF and evidence-based home visiting funding. The final budget resulted in a funding decreased of \$1.492 million to CCF, inclusive of evidence-based home visiting program funding. Estimated cut to program services of 25%-30%
		Other:	\$5.1 \$0	
ECEAP	DEL	State:	\$104.4 mil (\$2.3 mil)	The Governor proposed no cuts to ECEAP and the House proposed a temporary decrease in vendor rates. The final budget follows the Senate proposal and temporarily reduces number of slots in 2009-11 by 2.1% statewide from the current 8,226 slots for 3-year-olds and 4-year-olds at an average rate of \$6,674 for high-quality prekindergarten (an approximate cut of 160 children from the ECEAP program). The conference budget adopted language from the Senate budget that cited the federal ARRA increase of \$10 mil in Head Start and Early Head Start to help cover the temporary decrease of available slots for children.
		Other:	\$0 \$0	

² This amount includes one-time other investments made in FY 2008-2009: \$861,689 federal earmark and a one-time private fund balance contribution of \$225,000 (\$1.15 mil annually) that will not carry over to the next biennium.

³ This amount includes \$3.5 mil per biennium for evidence-based home visiting programs and \$170k for Post Partum Depression campaign

Program	Program Budget	2009-11 Maint	Conference Change	Notes
Admin Efficiency Savings – Includes ECEAP Admin	DEL	State: Unknown	(\$818k)	Funding for department Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program staff and administrative expenses is reduced by 2.2 FTEs. Expenditure authority is also reduced to reflect actual expenditures. (GF-S)
		Other: Unknown	\$0	
Working Connections Child Care	DSHS	State: \$48 mil ⁴	No change	Governor’s proposed increase of average co-pay not proposed in the House/Senate/Conference budgets and not passed this session. Assumption is that CCDBG federal stimulus funds will help fill the gap
		Other: \$240 mil ⁵	unknown	
Quality Rating Improvement System⁶	DEL	State: \$5 mil	(\$5 mil)	QRIS funding from state general fund eliminated, but \$1 million of quality funds from the CCDBG federal stimulus funds is included in the final budget for pilot sites. Funding must be distributed in each of the pilot locations and the legislature assumes that private funding will be leveraged in each pilot location. Funding specifically includes: 1) \$400,000 for professional development and coaching in the King and Yakima pilot locations; 2) \$100,000 to train and mentor coaches in Clark, Spokane and Kitsap pilot locations and 3) \$500,000 for professional development and coaching in Clark, Spokane and Kitsap.
		Other: \$0	\$1 mil (ARRA)	
Parent, Family and Caregiver Support⁷	DEL	State: \$1.6mil	(\$1.2 mil)	Small amount remaining for this line item (\$400k), which supported a range of programs. These funds are used for play and learn resources, parent education workshops, parent and informational literature on child care. 1.0 FTEs are cut with this line item
		Other: \$0	\$0	
Infant/Toddler care	DEL	State:	\$0	Line item in DEL budget serves as placeholder for the targeted infant/toddler set-aside for CCDBG federal stimulus funds. Use of funds to be determined by DEL
		Other:	\$1.6 mil (ARRA)	
Homeless Care Subsidy	DEL	State: \$0	\$0	Funding is provided to increase the Homeless Child Care (HCC) subsidy rate to be equivalent to those in the 2007-09 family home child care collective bargaining agreement. This increase in HCC subsidy rate is allocated to counties currently participating in the program; this funding level is not an expansion of the program. (GF-F)
		Other:	\$141k	
Early Childhood Apprenticeships	DEL	State: \$200k	(\$200k)	Early learning apprenticeship program discontinued as proposed by the House and Senate budgets
		Other: \$0	\$0	
Child Care Quality Improvement Specialists	DEL	State: \$870k	(\$870k)	Funding provided for five licensing quality improvement specialists discontinued as proposed in Governor, House and Senate budgets. Results in loss of 5.0 FTEs at DEL
		Other: \$0	\$0	

⁴ Based on estimates

⁵ Based on estimates

⁶ The 2007-2009 \$5 million allocation for QRIS included:

\$0.3 million to support the Early Learning Advisory Committee;

\$1.5 million for professional development and training for providers;

\$1.0 million for grants to providers to improve facilities;

\$1.3 million for mentoring and technical assistance;

\$0.2 million for external assessments of providers; and

\$0.7 million for DEL staffing related to the quality rating and improvement system.

⁷ The allocation for Parent Support/Family Friend and Neighbor included \$400k of what is being considered in the Senate budget as one-time, non continuing costs so the estimate of -\$1.6 million is based on the funding that would have continued in the 2009-2011 biennium.

Program	Program Budget	2009-11 Maint	Conference Change	Notes
Provider Health Care	DSHS – Econ Svcs Admin	State: \$0	\$389k	\$389k provided for the health care benefits portion of the collective bargaining agreement between family child care providers and the state. The health care funding growth rate increases 3% in FY 2010 and 3% in FY 2011. (GF-S)
		Other: \$0	\$0	
Enhanced Toddler Rate for Family Homes	DSHS – Econ Svcs Admin	State: \$0	\$214k	Funds increased by \$214k for the enhanced toddler subsidy rate for licensed family child care providers included in the collective bargaining agreement between FCC providers and state. Enhanced rate is 115% of regular toddler rate.
		Other: \$0	\$0	
Kindergarten Readiness	DEL	State: \$0	\$100k	\$100k is provided to DEL to work with OSPI & stakeholders to develop and pilot a kindergarten readiness assessment process. School districts may participate in the pilot on a voluntary basis. DEL shall report to the legislature on the assessment proves by January 15, 2011. (GF-S)
		Other: \$0	\$0	
Reading Achievement Acct	DEL	State: Unknown	(\$2 mil)	The spending authority is adjusted for the Reading Achievement Account to match available revenue deposits
		Other: \$0	\$0	
Child Care Federal Stimulus	DEL	State: N/A	N/A	Remainder of CCDBG funding after expenditures in current biennium and allocations for QRIS, Career and Wage, R&R and infant/toddler set –aside. Allocation to be determined by DEL
		Other: N/A	\$19.901 mil ⁸	
Negotiated Rule Making	DEL	State: \$150k	(\$150k)	Funding for negotiated rulemaking and redrafting of rules is discontinued after December 31' 2009. This includes a reduction of 1.5 FTEs at DEL
		Other: \$0	\$0	
Family Child Care Provider Agreement	DEL	State: Unknown	(\$1.025 mil)	Senate proposed reduction adopted in the final budget that reduces funding for DEL's portion of the family child care collective bargaining implementation costs. This cut includes a reduction of 3.0 FTEs in DEL
		Other: Unknown	\$0	
Governor Directed Freeze	DEL	State: Unknown	(\$1.282 mil)	Funding reduced by assuming a similar amount of savings each fiscal year as was achieved in FY 2009 by freeze on new hiring, out-of-state travel, personal services contracts, equipment purchases not related to public safety or other essential activities. This cut resulted in a loss of 3.2 FTEs
		Other: \$0	\$0	
Governor Directed 1% cut	DEL	State: Unknown	(\$1.85 mil)	Funding is reduced by assuming a similar amount of savings each fiscal year as was achieved in FY 2009 through the 1 percent cut enacted by the Governor in FY 2008. Cut is maintained in final version of the budget and results in loss of 4.6 FTEs at DEL
		Other: \$0	\$0	

2009-2011 Biennial Capital Budget

Project	Budget	Gov Proposal	Senate Proposal	House Proposal	Conf Proposal	Final
Greenbridge (White Center) Educare Center	CTED – Building Communities Fund	\$1.42 mil	\$1.42 mil	\$1.42 mil	\$1.42 mil	\$1.42 mil
Ready by Five (Yakima) Educare Center	CTED – Local & Community Projects	\$1 mil	\$1 mil	\$1 mil	\$1 mil	\$1 mil
High Point Neighborhood (Head Start) Center	CTED – Building Communities Fund	\$2 mil	\$2 mil	\$2 mil	\$2 mil	\$2 mil

⁸ Identifies that funds are to be utilized as allowable by CCDBG policy, with specific funds set aside for quality and infant toddler funds. This amount does not include the quality funding or infant/toddler funding allocated in the budget (including Career and Wage Ladder, Resource and Referral Network, QRIS and a line item for the \$1.6 million set-aside for infants/toddlers.

