
HOUSE BILL 1451

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By Representatives Senn and Harris

1 AN ACT Relating to expanding the child care workforce; adding a
2 new section to chapter 28A.630 RCW; adding new sections to chapter
3 43.216 RCW; creating a new section; and providing expiration dates.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Like other states around the country,
6 there is a child care workforce crisis in Washington state. High
7 school students who already provide child care for young siblings and
8 neighbors should be able to turn that experience into a rewarding
9 career in an in-demand field. As we expand access to high quality
10 child care in Washington, the opportunities in the child care
11 industry will continue to increase. Therefore, the legislature
12 intends to grow and support the pipeline of child care workers and
13 nurture the development of new child care providers.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.630
15 RCW to read as follows:

16 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
17 specific purpose, the office of the superintendent of public
18 instruction shall establish a child care worker pilot program as
19 described in this section. The purpose of the program is to support
20 and promote opportunities for students to earn credit and experience

1 by participating in courses and hands-on work practices as part of
2 the early childhood development and services career pathway of career
3 and technical education.

4 (2) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
5 select:

6 (a) Two or fewer public high schools that offer established
7 courses in the early childhood development and services career
8 pathway for the purpose of consulting with the applicable schools and
9 districts and developing model materials to be employed by other
10 school districts with an interest in establishing or expanding
11 similar instructional offerings to students; and

12 (b) Four or fewer school districts that choose to participate in
13 the child care worker pilot program during the 2023-24 and 2024-25
14 school years. Participating school districts must agree to establish
15 or expand student instruction in courses that are part of the early
16 childhood development and services career pathway of career and
17 technical education, and preference shall be given to school
18 districts that have or are pursuing career launch programs under
19 chapter 28C.30 RCW.

20 (3) School districts participating in the child care worker pilot
21 program established in this section must:

22 (a) Coordinate background checks for participating students;

23 (b) Connect students with local community colleges offering
24 coursework in early learning that meets early achievers requirements
25 under chapter 43.216 RCW;

26 (c) Coordinate with organizations that support access to high
27 quality child care and early learning programs for the purpose of
28 supporting students in professional settings and communicating with
29 child care providers;

30 (d) Provide a stipend or hourly wage to the students; and

31 (e) Support efforts of qualifying students to earn dual credit,
32 work credit, or both.

33 (4) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall:

34 (a) Administer a grant program to provide grants to eligible
35 school districts that participate in the child care worker pilot
36 program;

37 (b) Establish requirements for the application and grant award
38 process, the number of awards, and the authorized use of grant funds;
39 and

1 (c) Begin distributing funds by September 1, 2023, with the
2 distribution of funds completed by September 1, 2024.

3 (5) At a minimum, to be eligible for grant funding, a school
4 district must:

5 (a) Describe how the funds would be used to establish or expand
6 the early childhood development and services career pathway of career
7 and technical education;

8 (b) Demonstrate community support for the established or expanded
9 instructional offerings, including describing the actual or perceived
10 need and efforts to coordinate instructional offerings with community
11 colleges, child care providers, and organizations that support access
12 to high quality child care and early learning programs; and

13 (c) Agree to coordinate and collaborate with other school
14 districts participating in the child care worker pilot program.

15 (6) Grant recipients must submit information to the office of the
16 superintendent of public instruction by September 1, 2024, and
17 September 1, 2025, detailing the use of grant funds.

18 (7) By November 10, 2025, and in accordance with RCW 43.01.036,
19 the office of the superintendent of public instruction shall report
20 to the appropriate committees of the legislature with findings from
21 and recommendations regarding the child care worker pilot program,
22 including whether the program should be extended, expanded, or both,
23 a compilation of the use of grant funds as reported under subsection
24 (5) of this section, and options for further supporting and promoting
25 opportunities for students to earn credit and experience by
26 participating in the early childhood development and services career
27 pathway of career and technical education.

28 (8) This section expires July 1, 2026.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 43.216
30 RCW to read as follows:

31 (1) By December 1, 2023, the department must develop and publish
32 on its website a model program manual for a program to assist middle
33 and high school-aged youth who routinely care for younger relatives,
34 such as siblings, cousins, nieces and nephews, and other young
35 children while those children's parents are away at work or school.
36 In developing the manual, the department must consult with
37 organizations that currently operate similar, well-established
38 programs.

1 (2) The manual must contain guidance including, but not limited
2 to, the following:

3 (a) Providing key curriculum covering topics such as child
4 development, nutrition, and home safety;

5 (b) Incorporating elements of experiential learning and peer
6 learning and support;

7 (c) Proficiency with cardiopulmonary resuscitation and first aid;
8 and

9 (d) The benefits of partnering with community-based organizations
10 to provide program content and reach youth most in need of the
11 program.

12 (3) This section expires July 1, 2025.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 43.216
14 RCW to read as follows:

15 (1) The department must develop detailed recommendations
16 regarding ways to utilize funds, in line with the spending goals and
17 strategies under RCW 43.216.772(1)(i), to continue to expand the
18 substitute pool for child care and early learning providers and
19 provide additional career coaching to substitute providers.

20 (2) The department must provide a report with relevant data to
21 the appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2023, in
22 accordance with RCW 43.01.036, detailing the recommendations
23 developed under subsection (1) of this section and including an
24 update as to any milestones achieved as of the reporting date and
25 projections for achievement of future goals.

26 (3) This section expires July 1, 2025.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 43.216
28 RCW to read as follows:

29 (1) Subject to amounts appropriated for this specific purpose,
30 the department must administer a grant program to provide grants to
31 one or more organizations that focus on working with child care
32 workers to establish new affordable, high quality child care and
33 early learning programs. The department must establish requirements
34 for the application and grant award process, the number of awards,
35 and the authorized use of grant funds, and must begin distributing
36 funds by September 1, 2023.

37 (2) At a minimum, to be eligible for grant funding, an
38 organization must:

1 (a) Provide professional development services for child care
2 providers and early childhood educators, including training and
3 mentorship programs;

4 (b) Provide resources to assist with child care provider and
5 facility licensing;

6 (c) Contribute to or host a system of shared resources and
7 consulting related to operating a child care business; and

8 (d) Facilitate a substitute child care provider program.

9 (3) Grant recipients must provide information to the department
10 by October 1, 2024, detailing the use of grant funds.

11 (4) The department must compile the information submitted by
12 grantees under subsection (3) of this section and provide a report on
13 the grant program and use of funds to the appropriate committees of
14 the legislature by December 1, 2024, in accordance with RCW
15 43.01.036.

16 (5) This section expires July 1, 2026.

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