
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2519

AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

Passed Legislature - 2014 Regular Session

State of Washington 63rd Legislature 2014 Regular Session

By House Early Learning & Human Services (originally sponsored by Representatives Senn, Walsh, Kagi, Hunter, Roberts, Tharinger, Haigh, Goodman, and Freeman)

READ FIRST TIME 02/05/14.

1 AN ACT Relating to connecting children involved in the child
2 welfare system to quality early care and education programming;
3 amending RCW 43.215.405 and 43.215.405; adding a new section to chapter
4 26.44 RCW; creating a new section; and providing an effective date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 26.44 RCW
7 to read as follows:

8 (1) The family assessment response worker must assess for child
9 safety and child well-being when collaborating with a family to
10 determine the need for child care, preschool, or home visiting services
11 and, as appropriate, the family assessment response worker must refer
12 children to preschool programs that are enrolled in the early achievers
13 program and rate at a level 3, 4, or 5 unless:

14 (a) The family lives in an area with no local preschool programs
15 that rate at a level 3, 4, or 5 in the early achievers program;

16 (b) The local preschool programs that rate at a level 3, 4, or 5 in
17 the early achievers program are not able to meet the needs of the
18 child; or

1 (c) The child is attending a preschool program prior to
2 participating in family assessment response and the parent or caregiver
3 does not want the child to change preschool programs.

4 (2) The family assessment response worker may make child care
5 referrals for nonschool-aged children to licensed child care programs
6 that rate at a level 3, 4, or 5 in the early achievers program
7 described in RCW 43.215.100 unless:

8 (a) The family lives in an area with no local programs that rate at
9 level 3, 4, or 5 in the early achievers program;

10 (b) The local child care programs that rate at a level 3, 4, or 5
11 in the early achievers program are not able to meet the needs of the
12 child; or

13 (c) The child is attending a child care program prior to
14 participating in family assessment response and the parent or caregiver
15 does not want the child to change child care programs.

16 (3) The family assessment response worker shall, when appropriate,
17 provide referrals to high quality child care and early learning
18 programs.

19 (4) The family assessment response worker shall, when appropriate,
20 provide referrals to state and federally subsidized programs such as,
21 but not limited to, licensed child care programs that receive state
22 subsidy pursuant to RCW 43.215.135; early childhood education and
23 assistance programs; head start programs; and early head start
24 programs.

25 (5) Prior to closing the family assessment response case, the
26 family assessment response worker must, when appropriate, discuss child
27 care and early learning services with the child's parent or caregiver.

28 If the family plans to use child care or early learning services,
29 the family assessment response worker must work with the family to
30 facilitate enrollment.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** No later than December 31, 2014, the
32 department of social and health services and the department of early
33 learning shall jointly develop recommendations on methods by which the
34 department of social and health services and the department of early
35 learning can better partner to ensure children involved in the child
36 welfare system have access to early learning services and

1 developmentally appropriate child care services and report these
2 recommendations to the governor and appropriate legislative committees.

3 **Sec. 3.** RCW 43.215.405 and 2013 2nd sp.s. c 16 s 4 are each
4 amended to read as follows:

5 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in
6 this section apply throughout RCW 43.215.400 through (~~43.215.450,~~
7 ~~43.215.455,~~ ~~43.215.456,~~) 43.215.457(~~(7)~~) and 43.215.900 through
8 43.215.903.

9 (1) "Advisory committee" means the advisory committee under RCW
10 43.215.420.

11 (2) "Approved programs" means those state-supported education and
12 special assistance programs which are recognized by the department as
13 meeting the minimum program rules adopted by the department to qualify
14 under RCW 43.215.400 through 43.215.450 and 43.215.900 through
15 43.215.903 and are designated as eligible for funding by the department
16 under RCW 43.215.430 and 43.215.440.

17 (3) "Comprehensive" means an assistance program that focuses on the
18 needs of the child and includes education, health, and family support
19 services.

20 (4) "Department" means the department of early learning.

21 (5)(a) "Eligible child" means a child not eligible for kindergarten
22 whose family income is at or below one hundred ten percent of the
23 federal poverty level, as published annually by the federal department
24 of health and human services, and includes a child whose family is
25 eligible for public assistance, and who is not a participant in a
26 federal or state program providing comprehensive services; a child
27 eligible for special education due to disability under RCW 28A.155.020;
28 and may include children who are eligible under rules adopted by the
29 department if the number of such children equals not more than ten
30 percent of the total enrollment in the early childhood program.
31 Priority for enrollment shall be given to children from families with
32 the lowest income, children in foster care, or to eligible children
33 from families with multiple needs.

34 (b) Subject to the availability of appropriations specifically for
35 this purpose, the department may include as an eligible child, a child
36 who is not otherwise receiving services under (a) of this subsection,
37 but is receiving child protective services under RCW 26.44.020(3), or

1 family assessment response services under RCW 26.44.260. If included
2 as an eligible child, these children shall receive priority services
3 under (a) of this subsection.

4 (6) "Family support services" means providing opportunities for
5 parents to:

- 6 (a) Actively participate in their child's early childhood program;
7 (b) Increase their knowledge of child development and parenting
8 skills;
9 (c) Further their education and training;
10 (d) Increase their ability to use needed services in the community;
11 (e) Increase their self-reliance.

12 **Sec. 4.** RCW 43.215.405 and 2014 c . . . s 3 (section 3 of this
13 act) are each amended to read as follows:

14 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in
15 this section apply throughout RCW 43.215.400 through 43.215.457 and
16 43.215.900 through 43.215.903.

17 (1) "Advisory committee" means the advisory committee under RCW
18 43.215.420.

19 (2) "Approved programs" means those state-supported education and
20 special assistance programs which are recognized by the department as
21 meeting the minimum program rules adopted by the department to qualify
22 under RCW 43.215.400 through 43.215.450 and 43.215.900 through
23 43.215.903 and are designated as eligible for funding by the department
24 under RCW 43.215.430 and 43.215.440.

25 (3) "Comprehensive" means an assistance program that focuses on the
26 needs of the child and includes education, health, and family support
27 services.

28 (4) "Department" means the department of early learning.

29 (5)((+a)) "Eligible child" means a child not eligible for
30 kindergarten whose family income is at or below one hundred ten percent
31 of the federal poverty level, as published annually by the federal
32 department of health and human services, and includes a child whose
33 family is eligible for public assistance, and who is not a participant
34 in a federal or state program providing comprehensive services; a child
35 eligible for special education due to disability under RCW 28A.155.020;
36 and may include children who are eligible under rules adopted by the
37 department if the number of such children equals not more than ten

1 percent of the total enrollment in the early childhood program.
2 Priority for enrollment shall be given to children from families with
3 the lowest income, children in foster care, or to eligible children
4 from families with multiple needs.

5 ~~((b) Subject to the availability of appropriations specifically
6 for this purpose, the department may include as an eligible child, a
7 child who is not otherwise receiving services under (a) of this
8 subsection, but is receiving child protective services under RCW
9 26.44.020(3), or family assessment response services under RCW
10 26.44.260. If included as an eligible child, these children shall
11 receive priority services under (a) of this subsection.))~~

12 (6) "Family support services" means providing opportunities for
13 parents to:

- 14 (a) Actively participate in their child's early childhood program;
15 (b) Increase their knowledge of child development and parenting
16 skills;
17 (c) Further their education and training;
18 (d) Increase their ability to use needed services in the community;
19 (e) Increase their self-reliance.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Section 4 of this act takes effect June 30,
21 2018.

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