

Agency 357

Department of Early Learning

Recommendation Summary

Dollars in Thousands

	Annual FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
2007-09 Expenditure Authority	208.7	134,487	195,416	329,903
Supplemental Changes				
Improve Child Care Safety	2.5	435		435
Central Service Agency Charges		1,378		1,378
Federal Audit Requirement		637		637
Transfer Program Funding		2,272		2,272
Online Recruiting Service		10		10
Subtotal - Supplemental Changes	2.5	4,732		4,732
Total Proposed Budget	211.2	139,219	195,416	334,635
Difference	2.5	4,732		4,732
Percent Change	1.2%	3.5%	0.0%	1.4%

SUPPLEMENTAL CHANGES

Improve Child Care Safety

The consistent application of child care licensing standards is a key component to protecting children. Funding is provided to place a safety improvement employee at each of the three regional service offices in the state and two employees at the Department of Early Learning (DEL) office in Lacey. These staff will lead quality improvement teams that will facilitate planning and implementation of a team approach to review licensing actions. The purpose of this case review is to increase safety and accountability. These employees will also train licensing staff to improve documentation and consistent adherence to statewide safety and health standards.

Central Service Agency Charges

In addition to higher than expected use of Attorney General's Office services, a number of central service agencies did not include the new department in billing estimates used for the 2007-09 biennial budget. This funding adjusts the DEL budget to cover these central service agency costs. Also, central service charges that were not transferred with corresponding programs from the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (CTED) and the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) are moved to cover the pending central service costs incurred by these programs at DEL. A total of \$19,000 of this funding is transferred from CTED and \$356,000 is transferred from DSHS.

Federal Audit Requirement

This item appropriates funding to DEL to comply with new federal audit regulations outlined in the Improper Payments Information Act of 2002. This act requires DEL to perform an audit of 271 cases during a 12-month period every three years on the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) as a condition of federal funds. DEL is required to report the first audit findings to the Department of Health and Human Services by June 30, 2008. Failure to complete this audit could result in numerous penalties including a four percent reduction in federal CCDF funding. DEL will contract with DSHS to conduct this audit.

EDUCATION - OTHER

Transfer Program Funding

When DEL was created, programs from DSHS were transferred to the new department. In some cases, staffing and program authority were transferred while the funding remained at DSHS, requiring the establishment of multiple interagency agreements between DEL and DSHS. To better align funding with program responsibilities, the following program funds are transferred from DSHS to DEL for Fiscal Year 2009: Head Start Collaboration State Match (\$46,250), Homeless Child Care Subsidy Program (\$690,000), Seasonal Child Care Subsidy Program (\$1,035,265) and the Tiered Reimbursement Program (\$500,000).

Online Recruiting Service

To support the state's online recruitment tool (E-Recruiting), additional funds are provided for a one-time charge from the Department of Personnel. This will improve the ability of agencies to manage their recruitment and hiring processes as required by the Personnel System Reform Act of 2002.