

Agency 357

Department of Early Learning

Recommendation Summary

Dollars in Thousands

	Annual FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
2007-09 Expenditure Authority	211.2	138,666	195,248	333,914
Total Maintenance Level	205.0	133,430	220,209	353,639
Difference	(6.2)	(5,236)	24,961	19,725
Percent Change from Current Biennium	(2.9)%	(3.8)%	12.8%	5.9%
Performance Changes				
Child Care Resource and Referral		(1,700)		(1,700)
Career and Wage Ladder	(1.0)	(3,000)		(3,000)
Employee Health Insurance		108	305	413
Background Checks Unit	3.0	352		352
Homeless Care Subsidy Increase	1.0		2,342	2,342
Governor-Directed Freeze		(1,282)		(1,282)
Governor-Directed 1% Cut		(1,850)		(1,850)
Actuarial Method Changes #		(173)	(389)	(562)
Parent, Family, and Caregiver Support	(1.5)	(2,000)		(2,000)
Quality Rating Improvement System		1,000		1,000
Subtotal	1.5	(8,545)	2,258	(6,287)
Total Proposed Budget	206.5	124,885	222,467	347,352
Difference	(4.7)	(13,781)	27,219	13,438
Percent Change from Current Biennium	(2.2)%	(9.9)%	13.9%	4.0%

PERFORMANCE LEVEL CHANGE DESCRIPTIONS

Child Care Resource and Referral

Funding in the amount of \$1.7 million was provided to the Washington State Child Care Resource and Referral Network in the 2007-09 Biennial Budget. That funding is removed for the 2009-11 Biennium.

Career and Wage Ladder

The Child Care Career and Wage Ladder Program was funded at a level of \$3 million in the 2007-09 Biennial Budget. That funding is suspended for the 2009-11 Biennium.

Background Checks Unit

The Department of Early Learning (DEL) must conduct background checks for anyone having unsupervised access to children in early learning programs. DEL must assume full responsibility for conducting all aspects of background check clearances by July 1, 2009, when the agreement with the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) expires. Two FTE staff are transferred from DSHS to DEL to review and make recommendations in regard to background check results. An offsetting reduction is made to the DSHS budget. In addition, an information technology position is funded at DEL to build and maintain a child care background check system.

EDUCATION - OTHER

Homeless Care Subsidy Increase

Homeless children are some of the most vulnerable children in Washington. Funding is provided to increase the Homeless Child Care (HCC) subsidy rates to make them equivalent to those in the 2007-09 Child Care collective bargaining agreement. The HCC program will be expanded to all counties so that homeless families can access licensed child care throughout the state. Increases will also be made to the homeless enhancement bonus that is paid to licensed child care providers as an incentive to accept homeless children into their care.

Parent, Family, and Caregiver Support

The Parent, Family, and Caregiver Support Program was funded at a level of \$2 million in the 2007-09 Biennial Budget. That funding is suspended for the 2009-11 Biennium.

Quality Rating Improvement System

Funding is provided to DEL to contract with Thrive by Five, Washington to pilot a quality rating improvement system. Private funding will be leveraged in the pilot communities as a result of state funding. (General Fund - State)