

Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC)

Feedback Loop

Follow-up items from: April 14, 2026 ELAC Meeting

Early Learning Budget and Legislative Updates

- **What is DCYF doing to improve both guidance (like updated Child Protective Services (CPS) /mandatory reporting training) and day-to-day communication between providers and caseworkers, to better support providers navigating high-risk situation around CPS reporting.**
 - [Here is a link to our most updated Mandatory Reporter Training](#). It was updated in December 2024.
- **For the market rate survey - was this a DCYF ask, Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) requirement or did the bill sponsor stumble upon this as an issue?**
 - DCYF did not request this legislation, and it is not a CCDF requirement. It appears to have been proposed at the initiative of the sponsor.
- **Can you share any more specifics about the Market Rate Survey (MRS) participation levels? will there be differentiation between center and family home responses? will not reaching the required level automatically mean no rate increases? will participation be tracked by each region individually? could some regions see an increase and others not? could there be rate reductions due to MRS response rates?**
 - HB 2689 requires only that participation *by region* reaches the specified levels, so differing levels of participation among provider types can combine to meet the requirement in each region. That said, DCYF is committed to supporting participation of all providers surveyed for the MRS so we meet or exceed requirements. The bill is not explicit about what occurs in the event that participation does not meet requirements in a given region. The Legislature determines rates and will therefore decide how to proceed in that event.

Coordinated Recruitment and Enrollment (CRE): DCYF, CCA of WA, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and Association of Educational Service Districts (AESD) Presentation

- **I appreciate the things Districts MUST do but how is that truly monitored? As I am sure you know, many local providers do not feel this is a highly collaborative process and at times hear from families that they are encouraged to leave programs at private centers when they do not have identified learning needs or income qualifications.**



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- OSPI provides general supervision through rulemaking, guidance, technical assistance, and collaboration; it does not oversee districts' day-to-day compliance.
- **Is the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) reaching out to childcare or Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) centers around a Transition to Kindergarten (TKK) program to check on CRE? I think a part of the site visit to TTK should include community outreach not just looking at the district form.**
 - OSPI partners with DCYF, Child Care Aware of Washington (CCA of WA), the Education School Districts (ESD's) and other community partners to ensure that child care, ECEAP, Head Start, Transition to Kindergarten (TK), and other early care and education providers are all engaged in and collaborating to support coordinated recruitment and enrollment for families.
- **Is there still a partnership with the statewide Help Me Grow resource directory and/or specialized pathway?**
 - Help Me Grow and CCA of WA have an ongoing referral partnership that connects families to any of our organizations' resources regardless of which statewide call center they contact.
- **How does this interact with sites like Kinside.com?**
 - Child Care Finder does not interact with other sites that help support finding local child care.
- **Will it also capture closures? My fear in my highly subsidized area that the Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) cuts might cause closures and that data will be helpful for future legislative work.**
 - Child Care Finder uses data provided by participating programs and DCYF. Any site closure would be captured in the data provided by DCYF. In addition to using the Early Learning Dashboards, the Family Access Coordinators in each region will support identifying areas that have access needs.