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DATE: July 01, 2026
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WSR 26-14-115

RULE-MAKING ORDER
EMERGENCY RULE ONLY

CR-103E (December 2017)
(Implements RCW 34.05.350 and 34.05.360)

Agency: Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF)

Effective date of rule:

Emergency Rules

☐ Immediately upon filing.

☒ Later (specify) July 1, 2026

Any other findings required by other provisions of law as precondition to adoption or effectiveness of rule?

☐ Yes ☒ No If Yes, explain:

Purpose: The Early Learning Division's Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) Program is amending the following WACs:

- 110-15-0200 Daily child care rates—Licensed or certified child care centers and DCYF contracted seasonal day camps.
- 110-15-0225 Special needs rates – Licensed or certified child care centers and seasonal day camps.

Citation of rules affected by this order:

New:
Repealed:
Amended: 110-15-0200, 110-15-0225
Suspended:

Statutory authority for adoption: RCW 43.216.828, House Bill (HB) 2689, Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill (ESSB) 5167.

Other authority: N/A

EMERGENCY RULE

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds:

☒ That immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest.

☐ That state or federal law or federal rule or a federal deadline for state receipt of federal funds requires immediate adoption of a rule.

Reasons for this finding: These rule amendments are needed to comply with HB 2689 and ESSB 5167. These amendments are to:

- Implement HB 2689 regarding the region realignment for center providers. Per HB 2689, "Beginning July 1, 2026, licensed or certified child care providers may not receive a child care subsidy base rate that is different than the rate for the child care subsidy rate region in which the provider is located."

- Modify WAC 110-15-0200 to align with the 2025 approved budget increasing licensed center provider rates to the 85th percentile of the current market effective July 1, 2026.

Note: If any category is left blank, it will be calculated as zero. No descriptive text.

Count by whole WAC sections only, from the WAC number through the history note. A section may be counted in more than one category.

The number of sections adopted in order to comply with:

Federal statute:	New	____	Amended	____	Repealed	____
Federal rules or standards:	New	____	Amended	____	Repealed	____
Recently enacted state statutes:	New	____	Amended	2	Repealed	____

The number of sections adopted at the request of a nongovernmental entity:

	New	____	Amended	____	Repealed	____

The number of sections adopted on the agency's own initiative:

	New	____	Amended	____	Repealed	____

The number of sections adopted in order to clarify, streamline, or reform agency procedures:

	New	____	Amended	____	Repealed	____

The number of sections adopted using:

Negotiated rule making:	New	____	Amended	____	Repealed	____
Pilot rule making:	New	____	Amended	____	Repealed	____
Other alternative rule making:	New	____	Amended	2	Repealed	____

Date Adopted: July 1, 2026	**Signature:**
Name: Brenda Villarreal	
Title: DCYF Rules Coordinator	

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 23-23-084, filed 11/13/23, effective 12/14/23)

WAC 110-15-0200 Daily child care rates—Licensed or certified child care centers and DCYF contracted seasonal day camps. (1) **Base rate.** Effective July 1, ((~~2023~~)) 2026, the child care subsidy rates paid to licensed or certified child care centers or DCYF contracted seasonal day camps are:

		Infants (Birth - 11 mos.)	Toddlers (12 - 29 mos.)	Preschool (30 mos. - 6 yrs not attending kindergarten or school)	School-age (5 - 12 yrs attending kindergarten or school)
Region 1	Full-Day	((~~$62.05~~)) $95.45	((~~$56.14~~)) $68.64	$53.18	((~~$53.36~~)) $46.59
	Half-Day	((~~$31.03~~)) $47.73	((~~$28.07~~)) $34.32	$26.59	((~~$26.68~~)) $23.30
Spokane County	Full-Day	((~~$68.54~~)) $78.18	((~~$56.59~~)) $65.00	((~~$52.14~~)) $62.73	((~~$49.00~~)) $50.00
	Half-Day	((~~$34.27~~)) $39.09	((~~$28.30~~)) $32.50	((~~$26.07~~)) $31.37	((~~$24.50~~)) $25.00
Region 2	Full-Day	((~~$59.09~~)) $76.09	((~~$49.09~~)) $68.64	((~~$44.77~~)) $60.91	((~~$32.73~~)) $56.59
	Half-Day	((~~$29.55~~)) $38.05	((~~$24.55~~)) $34.32	((~~$22.39~~)) $30.46	((~~$16.37~~)) $28.30
Region 3	Full-Day	((~~$88.58~~)) $105.45	((~~$80.36~~)) $98.18	((~~$72.50~~)) $86.82	((~~$65.45~~)) $79.32
	Half-Day	((~~$44.29~~)) $52.73	((~~$40.18~~)) $49.09	((~~$36.25~~)) $43.41	((~~$32.73~~)) $39.66
Region 4	Full-Day	((~~$113.64~~)) $135.23	((~~$101.59~~)) $120.91	((~~$85.68~~)) $106.82	((~~$90.64~~)) $78.79
	Half-Day	((~~$56.82~~)) $67.62	((~~$50.80~~)) $60.46	((~~$42.84~~)) $53.41	((~~$45.32~~)) $39.40
Region 5	Full-Day	((~~$72.56~~)) $86.82	((~~$64.00~~)) $81.59	((~~$55.77~~)) $74.77	((~~$54.18~~)) $66.82
	Half-Day	((~~$36.28~~)) $43.41	((~~$32.00~~)) $40.80	((~~$27.89~~)) $37.39	((~~$27.09~~)) $33.41
Region 6	Full-Day	((~~$77.00~~)) $87.73	((~~$67.50~~)) $80.36	((~~$57.73~~)) $72.95	((~~$50.23~~)) $66.14
	Half-Day	((~~$38.50~~)) $43.87	((~~$33.75~~)) $40.18	((~~$28.87~~)) $36.48	((~~$25.12~~)) $33.07

((~~(a) Centers in Clark County are paid Region 3 rates.~~

~~(b) Centers in Benton, Walla Walla, and Whitman counties are paid Region 6 rates.~~))

(2) WAC 110-300-0005 and 110-300-0356 allow providers to care for children from birth up to and including the end of their eligibility period after their 13th birthday.

(3) Providers must obtain child-specific and time-limited exceptions from DCYF to provide care for children outside the age listed on the center's license.

(4) If providers are granted an exception to care for a child who is 13 years old or older at application or reapplication:

(a) The payment rate is the same as subsection (1) of this section, and the five through 12 year age range column is used for comparison; and

(b) The children must meet the special needs requirement described in WAC 110-15-0220.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 22-12-072, filed 5/27/22, effective 7/1/22)

WAC 110-15-0225 Special needs rates—Licensed or certified child care centers and seasonal day camps. (1) In addition to the base rate for licensed or certified child care centers and seasonal day camps listed in WAC 110-15-0200, DCYF may authorize the following additional

special needs daily rates which are reasonable and verifiable as provided in WAC 110-15-0220:

(a) **Level 1.** The daily rate listed in the table below:

		Infants (Birth - 11 mos.)	Toddlers (12 - 29 mos.)	Preschool (30 mos. - 6 yrs not attending kindergarten or school)	School-age (5 - 12 yrs attending kindergarten or school)
Region 1	Full-Day	$7.30	$6.14	$5.80	$5.45
	Half-Day	$3.65	$3.07	$2.90	$2.73
Region 2	Full-Day	$7.36	$6.15	$5.70	$5.05
	Half-Day	$3.68	$3.08	$2.85	$2.52
Region 3	Full-Day	$9.75	$8.13	$7.02	$6.82
	Half-Day	$4.88	$4.06	$3.51	$3.41
Region 4	Full-Day	$11.35	$9.48	$7.95	$7.16
	Half-Day	$5.67	$4.74	$3.98	$3.58
Region 5	Full-Day	$8.32	$7.16	$6.30	$5.59
	Half-Day	$4.16	$3.58	$3.15	$2.80
Region 6	Full-Day	$8.18	$7.02	$6.14	$6.00
	Half-Day	$4.09	$3.51	$3.07	$3.00

((~~(i) Centers in Clark County are paid Region 3 rates;~~

~~(ii) Centers in Benton, Walla Walla, and Whitman counties are paid Region 6 rates;~~))

(b) **Level 2.** A rate greater than Level 1, not to exceed $15.89 per hour.

(2) If a provider is requesting one-on-one supervision or direct care for the child with special needs the person providing the one-on-one care must:

(a) Be at least 18 years of age;

(b) Meet the requirements for being an assistant under chapter 110-300 WAC; and

(c) Maintain daily records of one-on-one care provided, to include the name of the employee providing the care.

(3) If the provider has an exception to care for a child who is age 13 years or older and has special needs according to WAC 110-15-0220, DCYF authorizes the special needs payment rate as described in subsection (1) of this section using the five through 12 year age range for comparison.