



Weekly Legislative Update: **Early Care and Education**

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So far, we're seeing committee work sessions focused on implementation of early care and education programs and specifically the Fair Start for Kids Act (ESSS Bill 5237). Passed in 2021, this Act addresses a wide range of issues and recognizes that high quality early care and education is critical to a child's success in school and life, the ability of parents to work, and our state's economic vitality.

At 1:30 pm on January 10, 2023, the House Human Services, Youth, and Early Learning Committee held a work session. This work session included two presentations, one by Patricia Kuhl, Ph.D. with the Institute for Learning and Brain Sciences (I-LABS) and the other, an overview from the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF). The I-LABS presentation discussed how early learning changes the brain and predicts a child's future learning. Dr. Kuhl made recommendations about parent coaching, a bilingual teacher training program, and a reading program for five-year-olds. DCYF staff provided program statistics along with actions taken since 2021 to improve quality and availability of early care and education programs. These presentations and a recording are available through the committee website, [here](#).

January 18 at 1:30 pm, Senate Early Learning and K-12 Education will have a work session that addresses the following topics: 1) Implementation of the Fair Start for Kids Act; 2) Recommendations from the Child Care Collaborative Task Force; 3) Workforce and compensation recommendations; and 4) Perspectives from child care providers and families. You can watch this meeting online [here](#).

We anticipate that these work sessions are intended to set the stage for budget proposals to continue implementing the Fair Start for Kids Act.

Bills Needing Action This Week

None at this time

Bills We Support

Watch for updates

How You Can Be Involved

- Attend the January 18 Senate Early Learning and K-12 Education work session in person or by zoom. Check out the recording and presentations from the January 10 House Human Services, Youth, and Early Learning Committee work session.
- Contact Karen Tvedt, ktvedt@lwwwa.org for additional information.