

# 2024 ELAA Legislative Agenda

The Early Learning Action Alliance (ELAA) is guided by our mission that every child deserves the opportunity to thrive in school and life. A great start for children promises successful facilities, resilient families, and a healthier economy for all. ELAA strives to preserve Washington's commitment to high-quality early learning, a strategy proven to help kids succeed.

In recent years since the pandemic, early learning has managed to stay afloat with Fair Start for Kids investments. However, childcare has grown drastically, and we are working to ensure that basic supports are there. In this short session, we urge legislators to keep these three priorities top of mind:

## 1) Expanding Access

Increasing pathways for families and children to receive support, including removing barriers for families and children, expanding ECEAP and WCCC, and program support

## 2) Stabilizing Providers

Providing adequate and equitable resources to child care providers through increased compensation, support structures, removing barriers to entry, and expanding WCCC

## 3) System Financing

Passing progressive revenue options that provide robust and stable cash flow directly to early learning programs and using equity as a guiding principle

## Early Learning Action Alliance Roster

ELAA is a coalition made up of organizations representing a diverse array of Washington nonprofits, professional associations, businesses, and industries. We are united by the belief that all children in Washington state deserve to have the opportunities and support they need in their first five years of life to be prepared for school and a bright future. For additional information contact: [margot@dujietahatconsulting.com](mailto:margot@dujietahatconsulting.com)

**Steering Committee:** Child Care Resources, Children's Alliance, Children's Home Society of WA, Committee for Children, Economic Opportunity Institute, League of Education Voters, MomsRising, Save the Children Action Network, Nurse-Family Partnership, OneAmerica, Partners for Our Children, Start Early, United Ways of PNW, WA Childcare Centers Association, WA Communities for Children WA Federation of Independent Schools, WA Home Visiting Coalition, WA State Assoc. of Head Start & ECEAP, WSA Parent Ambassadors

**Full Coalition:** Child Care Action Council, Child Care Aware of WA, Childhaven, Children's Campaign Fund, Children's Therapy Center, Columbia City Consulting, Community Day Center for Children Inc, Early Care and Education Consortium (ECEC), Educare Early Learning Center, Elty Consulting, First 5 FUNdamentals, Foundation for Tacoma Students, Help Me Grow Pierce County, Mission: Readiness, Neighborhood House, Project Child Success, Puget Sound Educational Service District, ReadyNation, Save the Children, School's Out WA, SOAR, Sound Child Care Solutions, Southeast Seattle Education Coalition, Teach for America – Washington, The Arc of King County, Tiny Trees Preschool, United Way of King County, WA Assoc. for the Education of Young Children, WA Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics, WA Physicians for Social Responsibility, WA State Alliance of YMCAs, WA State Budget & Policy Center, WA State Community Action Partnership, WA STEM, Wellspring Family Services, WithinReach, Zeno

# 2024 Policies We Support

	Legislative Agenda	Support Agenda
Expanding Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Infant-Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation: Holding Hope: (Budget Proviso)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Increase funding by \$1.75 mill annually</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>Early ECEAP Expansion (400 spaces)</li> <li><a href="#">HB1991/SB5793</a> Paid Sick Leave Expansion</li> <li>Expanding WCCC Eligibility               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">SB5870/HB2124/HB1945</a> Expanding and Streamlining Eligibility for Early Learning Programs</li> <li><a href="#">SB5941/HB2111</a> Technical bill that reorganizes and updates Working Connections Child Care statutes</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support Stipends for the Lived Experiences Proposal</li> <li>Address 1% Levy Growth Limits</li> <li><a href="#">SB5559</a> Banning Child Isolation and Restrict Restraints</li> </ul>
Stabilizing Providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Address Workforce Shortage: Reducing Barriers               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">SB5774</a> Increasing the capacity to conduct timely fingerprint-based background checks</li> </ul> </li> <li><a href="#">HB2101</a> Removing Licensing Fees for Center Providers</li> <li><a href="#">HB2102/SB6177</a> Improvements to Paid Family Medical Leave Medical Certification Process Improvements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">HB2195</a> Strengthening the Early Learning Facilities Grant/Loan Program</li> <li>Increased Dedicated Funding for Rural Communities</li> <li>Supporting WCCC Eligibility for All Providers</li> <li>Increased Coordination between Health and Early Childhood Systems</li> <li>Supporting Childcare Providers in Childcare Deserts</li> <li>Increased Compensation</li> </ul>
System Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">SB5486/HB1473</a> Wealth Tax</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working Families Tax Credit               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">HB1075/SB5249</a> Expanding Eligibility</li> <li><a href="#">HB1895/SB5839</a> Clarifying Nature of the Credit</li> </ul> </li> <li><a href="#">HB2278</a> Closing Loopholes in the Capital Gains Tax</li> </ul>

## Additional Policies

ELAA broadly supports the following Decision Packages (DPs) proposed by the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF):

- [Making Childcare Work for Families](#)
- [Increase Non-Standard Hour Bonuses to \\$500](#)
- [ECEAP Expansion Towards Entitlement](#)
- [Increased infant Rate Enhancement to \\$500](#)
- [Staff Health and Safety Supports](#)
- [Adjust Monthly Count for ESIT](#)