

## HOUSE BILL NO. HB0012

Developmental preschool funding.

Sponsored by: Select Committee on Developmental Programs

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to education; providing for funding of  
2 developmental preschool programs, as specified; providing  
3 requirements for contracts with developmental preschools,  
4 as specified; requiring reports; granting rulemaking  
5 authority; providing appropriations; and providing for an  
6 effective date.

7

8 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

9

10 **Section 1.** W.S. 21-2-706 is created to read:

11

12 **21-2-706. Developmental preschool funding.**

13

14 (a) Expenditures by the division for developmental  
15 preschool services shall be subject to the following:

16

1           (i) Contractual payments to developmental  
2 preschool service providers shall be sufficient for the  
3 providers to provide adequate services for children age  
4 birth through five (5) years of age with developmental  
5 disabilities and delays, including compensation levels for  
6 early childhood special educators, occupational therapists,  
7 physical therapists and speech-language therapists that are  
8 competitive with local school district compensation levels  
9 for those categories;

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11           (ii) Contractual payments to developmental  
12 preschool service providers shall be sufficient for the  
13 providers to pay for professional development activities of  
14 their professional employees and for a statewide program to  
15 identify children age birth through five (5) years of age  
16 in need of developmental preschool services;

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18           (iii) Contracts with developmental preschool  
19 service providers shall require that the providers adopt  
20 evidence-based best practices, as defined by the division  
21 by rule and regulation.

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23           (b) For purposes of calculating payments to service  
24 providers for the subsequent fiscal year and preparing the

1 division's standard budget for the subsequent biennium,  
2 children age birth through five (5) years of age with  
3 developmental disabilities who are subject to an  
4 individualized education program or an individualized  
5 family service plan shall be estimated as of December 1 of  
6 the current fiscal year, and that number shall be  
7 multiplied by seven thousand two hundred six dollars  
8 (\$7,206.00) per child per year.

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10 (c) In preparing the standard budget amount following  
11 the 2007-2008 biennium and thereafter, the amount described  
12 in subsection (b) shall be increased by the most recent  
13 external cost adjustment as enacted by the legislature  
14 pursuant to W.S. 21-13-309(o)(i) and (r).

15

16 **Section 2.**

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18 (a) The developmental disabilities division of the  
19 department of health shall report to the select committee  
20 on developmental programs or, if that committee no longer  
21 exists, to the joint education interim committee and the  
22 joint labor, health and social services interim committee  
23 as follows:

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1           (i) By October 1, 2006, and every year  
2 thereafter, regarding:

3

4           (A) Whether compensation levels for early  
5 childhood special educators, occupational therapists,  
6 physical therapists and speech-language therapists are  
7 competitive with local school district salaries, and the  
8 effect of school district recalibration on those salaries;

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10           (B) Whether funding levels are sufficient  
11 to provide required services for all eligible children;

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13           (C) Whether services for children with  
14 developmental disabilities are provided in a least  
15 restrictive environment;

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17           (D) Whether developmental preschools have  
18 adopted evidence-based best practices;

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20           (E) Whether developmental preschools are  
21 meeting parent expectations and children are making  
22 sufficient and measurable progress based upon parent  
23 satisfaction surveys and student performance measurements.

24 If a program is not providing satisfactory results, the

1 board of directors of the program shall submit a remedial  
2 plan to the division that details the steps that will be  
3 taken to correct the deficiencies. The division shall  
4 report the results of the parent satisfaction surveys and  
5 student performance measurements as well as the number of  
6 regions out of compliance with the above performance  
7 measures, the number of remedial plans submitted to the  
8 division and the number of regions correcting noncompliance  
9 within the past year. For the October 1, 2006 report only,  
10 the division shall submit a plan for implementation,  
11 including a description of the parent survey instrument to  
12 be used in successive years and the method to be used for  
13 assessing student performance rather than the outcome  
14 measures.

15

16 (ii) By October 1, 2006, regarding:

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18 (A) The progress of a mental health pilot  
19 project and the cost of integrating mental health services  
20 in developmental preschools;

21

22 (B) The capital construction needs of  
23 developmental preschools in the state.

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1           **Section 3.** The department of education shall report  
2 to the select committee on developmental programs or, if  
3 that committee no longer exists, to the joint education  
4 interim committee and the joint labor, health and social  
5 services interim committee by October 1, 2006 on the amount  
6 of funds each school district is providing to the  
7 developmental preschools to conduct child find activities  
8 for children from birth through five (5) years of age.

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10           **Section 4.** In addition to any other funds  
11 appropriated for developmental preschool programs, up to  
12 eleven million one hundred thirteen thousand one hundred  
13 seventy-one dollars (\$11,113,171.00) is appropriated to the  
14 department of health from the general fund for the biennium  
15 commencing July 1, 2006 for contractual payments to  
16 developmental preschools to fulfill the purposes of this  
17 act.

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19           **Section 5.** There is appropriated two hundred twenty  
20 thousand dollars (\$220,000.00) from the general fund to  
21 department of health for purposes of administration of this  
22 act. Notwithstanding W.S. 9-2-1008, 9-2-1012(e) and  
23 9-4-207(a), any unobligated, unexpended funds remaining  
24 from this appropriation shall not revert on June 30, 2006

1 and is hereby appropriated to the department of health for  
2 the period beginning July 1, 2006 and ending June 30, 2008  
3 for purposes of administration of this act.

4

5       **Section 6.** This act is effective immediately upon  
6 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law  
7 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming  
8 Constitution.

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(END)