

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0026

Education-early childhood programs.

Sponsored by: Joint Education Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to early childhood education and
2 development programs; requiring the director of the
3 department of education to coordinate state early childhood
4 education programs and accordingly granting authority and
5 imposing responsibilities; providing resources to
6 supplement local and private funds for the development and
7 extension of early childhood education programs;
8 establishing a grant program for high quality programs
9 provided by school districts and nonprofit service
10 providers; specifying conditions for resource assistance
11 and grants; imposing reporting requirements; granting
12 rulemaking authority; providing appropriations; and
13 providing for an effective date.

14

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

16

1 **Section 1.** W.S. 21-2-202(a) by creating a new
2 paragraph (xxxv) is amended to read:

3

4 **21-2-202. Duties of the director.**

5

6 (a) In addition to any other duties assigned by law,
7 the director shall:

8

9 (xxxv) Coordinate early childhood education
10 programs provided by the department of education, the
11 department of family services, the department of health and
12 the department of workforce services, including programs
13 targeting educationally disadvantaged children, and provide
14 support to local governments, political subdivisions,
15 nonprofit organizations and private entities in developing
16 and expanding early childhood education programs providing
17 education and care for children in preparation for
18 successful learning in the public education system.

19

20 **Section 2.**

21

22 (a) In addition to reporting requirements imposed
23 under sections 3 and 4 of this act, the director shall

1 report to the joint education interim committee by not
2 later than December 1, 2015, on the following:

3

4 (i) Development of a long-term state strategic
5 plan endorsed by the state board of education and each
6 participating state agency which provides for the
7 development of broad based dissemination and use of early
8 learning foundations, implementation of professional
9 training in these foundations at the local level,
10 assessment and progress reporting of statewide
11 implementation of early learning foundations and
12 identification of statewide long-term goals and objectives;

13

14 (ii) Agreement between the department of
15 education, the department of family services, the
16 department of health and the department of workforce
17 services on the contribution and support of each agency to
18 the development and achievement of the long-term state
19 strategic plan established pursuant to paragraph (i) of
20 this subsection supporting systems for local program
21 development, improvement and sustenance;

22

23 (iii) Through collaboration and consultation
24 with school districts, local early childhood education and

1 care program providers and the statewide education
2 longitudinal data system, link child outcome and program
3 assessment data to inform policy making for continuous
4 improvement.

5

6 (b) For purposes of carrying out this section and
7 administering sections 3 and 4 of this act, an amount not
8 to exceed five percent (5%) of the total amount
9 appropriated under sections 3 and 4 of this act shall be
10 available to the director for the period commencing on the
11 effective date of this act and ending June 30, 2017.

12

13 **Section 3.**

14

15 (a) Except for administrative expenditures as
16 authorized by section 5(a) of this act, for the period
17 commencing July 1, 2014, and ending June 30, 2017, and
18 subject to limitations specified within this section, five
19 hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000.00) is appropriated from
20 the general fund to the department of education for
21 supplementing not supplanting amounts available locally and
22 otherwise for collaborative work between local governments
23 and political subdivisions, state agencies, nonprofit
24 organizations and community stakeholders in developing and

1 extending a comprehensive early childhood education and
2 development system within respective jurisdictions.
3 Comprehensive early childhood education and development
4 systems shall encompass multiple domains which focus on
5 critical components necessary for childhood well-being and
6 success in kindergarten and beyond.

7

8 (b) The director, in consultation with the department
9 of education, department of family services, department of
10 health, department of workforce services and the Wyoming
11 early childhood state advisory council, and subject to the
12 purposes, expenditure criteria, evaluation, accountability
13 and reporting requirements established pursuant to section
14 2 of this act, shall expend the amount appropriated by
15 subsection (a) of this section together with any funds
16 received from private sources, to:

17

18 (i) Identify local governments, political
19 subdivisions or nonprofits within the state in which there
20 is a documented need supported by strong local leadership
21 to develop stakeholder communication including parents and
22 families, physical and mental health providers, early care
23 and education professionals, kindergarten through grade
24 twelve (12) education professionals and the broader local

1 community, including its services, support systems,
2 businesses, churches and individuals, to engage in a
3 collaboration with state agencies, to undertake strategic
4 planning and action focused on improvement of the well-
5 being of its children and families;

6

7 (ii) Encourage collaborative work toward a
8 system of services and support that:

9

10 (A) Honors the fact that families are a
11 child's first and most important teacher;

12

13 (B) Recognizes the role of families and
14 communities in assisting children to become ready for
15 school success;

16

17 (C) Serves as a resource within the
18 community, not a replacement or supplement to successful
19 and necessary programs and services which may exist;

20

21 (D) Identifies a shared definition or
22 understanding for school readiness that assists individuals
23 with taking ownership of respective roles in preparing
24 children for lifetime success;

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

Section 4.

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

(E) Provides a seamless transition between early childhood education and development and kindergarten through grade twelve (12) education programs;

(F) Engages and supports parents and families;

(G) Focuses on early literacy; and

(H) Creates dynamic connections across a system to share information and resources.

(a) Except for administrative expenditures authorized under section 5(a) of this act, in addition to section 3 of this act and for the period commencing July 1, 2014, and ending June 30, 2017, one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00) is appropriated from the general fund to the department of education for a grant program available to school districts or other nonprofit service providers for developing, enhancing and sustaining high quality early childhood education programs, including programs targeting

1 educationally disadvantaged children. Program grants shall
2 be available under this section for supplementing not
3 supplanting amounts available locally and otherwise subject
4 to the purposes, expenditure criteria, evaluation,
5 accountability and reporting requirements established by
6 the director pursuant to section 2 of this act in
7 consultation with the department of education, department
8 of family services, department of health, department of
9 workforce services and the Wyoming early childhood state
10 advisory council, including:

11

12 (i) Initiation or completion of a community
13 needs assessment and strategic plan for the creation of
14 early childhood education services and supports;

15

16 (ii) Identification of local resources and
17 services for prekindergarten children and an evaluation of
18 local programs and support services;

19

20 (iii) Coordination and expansion of
21 infrastructure to support high-quality early childhood
22 education programs;

23

1 (iv) Collaboration with classroom teachers,
2 parents, community, volunteer and social service agencies
3 and organizations;

4
5 (v) Development of program components focusing
6 on early childhood literacy;

7
8 (vi) Professional development and training.

9
10 (b) A process for grant administration under this
11 section shall be established by rule and regulation of the
12 director, promulgated in sufficient time to enable awarding
13 of grants to applicant school districts and nonprofit
14 service providers during school year 2014-2015. Notice of
15 the grant program together with necessary application forms
16 and program information shall be provided to school
17 districts and existing nonprofit service providers
18 operating in the state not later than May 1, 2014.
19 Evaluation of applications shall be based upon criteria
20 specified in subsection (a) of this section and no district
21 or nonprofit service provider shall be awarded more than
22 one (1) grant under this section. In determining grant
23 amounts consideration shall be given to the following:

24

1 (i) The number of children estimated to
2 participate or currently participating in the program;

3

4 (ii) The total program costs;

5

6 (iii) The total amounts available locally or
7 otherwise for the program for which the grant is to
8 supplement;

9

10 (iv) A maximum award amount of one hundred fifty
11 thousand dollars (\$150,000.00).

12

13 (c) Each grant recipient shall report to the director
14 on the expenditure of grant amounts awarded under this
15 section, including the number of children served by the
16 early childhood education program and support services, the
17 impact of the award on total program delivery, the ability
18 of the community to address early childhood education needs
19 through use of the grant award and other criteria
20 established under section 2 of this act.

21

22 **Section 5.**

23

1 (a) Notwithstanding sections 3(a) and 4(a) of this
2 act, up to five percent (5%) of the general fund
3 appropriation for assistance and grants under sections 3
4 and 4 of this act, as authorized under section 2 of this
5 act, may be appropriated on the effective date of this act.

6

7 (b) On before December 1, 2014, and each December 1
8 thereafter through December 1, 2017, the director shall
9 report expenditures of amounts appropriated under section 3
10 of this act, together with a compilation of reports
11 collected under section 4(c) of this act, to the joint
12 education and the joint labor, health and social services
13 interim committees. The director shall recommend any
14 modification to the supplemental assistance and grant
15 programs funded under this act, together with any future
16 funding sources.

17

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

22

23

(END)