

## HOUSE BILL NO. HB0081

Education-early childhood programs-2.

Sponsored by: Joint Education Interim Committee

## A BILL

for

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

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), as amended by 2013 Wyoming Session Laws,  
3 Chapter 1, is amended to read:

4

5           **21-2-202. Duties of the director.**

6

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

9

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

20

21           **Section 2.**

22

23           (a) In addition to reporting requirements imposed  
24 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;

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**Section 4.**

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(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;

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

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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.** W.S. 21-2-202(a) by creating a new  
19 paragraph (xxxv), as in effect prior to the enactment of  
20 2013 Wyoming Session Laws, Chapter 1, is amended to read:

21

22           **21-2-202. Duties of the state superintendent.**

23

24           (a) In addition to any other duties assigned by law,

1 the state superintendent shall:

2

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

13

14 **Section 7.**

15

16 (a) In addition to reporting requirements imposed  
17 under sections 8 and 9 of this act, the department of  
18 education shall report to the joint education interim  
19 committee by not later than December 1, 2015, on the  
20 following:

21

22 (i) Development of a long-term state strategic  
23 plan endorsed by the state board of education and each  
24 participating state agency which provides for the

1 development of broad based dissemination and use of early  
2 learning foundations, implementation of professional  
3 training in these foundations at the local level,  
4 assessment and progress reporting of statewide  
5 implementation of early learning foundations and  
6 identification of statewide long-term goals and objectives;

7

8 (ii) Agreement between the department of  
9 education, the department of family services, the  
10 department of health and the department of workforce  
11 services on the contribution and support of each agency to  
12 the development and achievement of the long-term state  
13 strategic plan established pursuant to paragraph (i) of  
14 this subsection supporting systems for local program  
15 development, improvement and sustenance;

16

17 (iii) Through collaboration and consultation  
18 with school districts, local early childhood education and  
19 care program providers and the statewide education  
20 longitudinal data system, link child outcome and program  
21 assessment data to inform policy making for continuous  
22 improvement.

23

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

8

9           **Section 8.**

10

11           (a) Except for administrative expenditures as  
12 authorized by section 10(a) of this act, for the period  
13 commencing July 1, 2014, and ending June 30, 2017, and  
14 subject to limitations specified within this section, five  
15 hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000.00) is appropriated from  
16 the general fund to the department of education for  
17 supplementing not supplanting amounts available locally and  
18 otherwise for collaborative work between local governments  
19 and political subdivisions, state agencies, nonprofit  
20 organizations and community stakeholders in developing and  
21 extending a comprehensive early childhood education and  
22 development system within respective jurisdictions.  
23 Comprehensive early childhood education and development  
24 systems shall encompass multiple domains which focus on

1 critical components necessary for childhood well-being and  
2 success in kindergarten and beyond.

3

4 (b) The department of education, in consultation with  
5 the department of family services, department of health,  
6 department of workforce services and the Wyoming early  
7 childhood state advisory council, and subject to the  
8 purposes, expenditure criteria, evaluation, accountability  
9 and reporting requirements established pursuant to section  
10 7 of this act, shall expend the amount appropriated by  
11 subsection (a) of this section together with any funds  
12 received from private sources, to:

13

14 (i) Identify local governments, political  
15 subdivisions or nonprofits within the state in which there  
16 is a documented need supported by strong local leadership  
17 to develop stakeholder communication including parents and  
18 families, physical and mental health providers, early care  
19 and education professionals, kindergarten through grade  
20 twelve (12) education professionals and the broader local  
21 community, including its services, support systems,  
22 businesses, churches and individuals, to engage in a  
23 collaboration with state agencies, to undertake strategic

1 planning and action focused on improvement of the well-  
2 being of its children and families;

3

4 (ii) Encourage collaborative work toward a  
5 system of services and support that:

6

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

9

10 (B) Recognizes the role of families and  
11 communities in assisting children to become ready for  
12 school success;

13

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

17

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

22



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

4  
5 (F) Engages and supports parents and  
6 families;

7  
8 (G) Focuses on early literacy; and

9  
10 (H) Creates dynamic connections across a  
11 system to share information and resources.

12

13 **Section 9.**

14

15 (a) Except for administrative expenditures authorized  
16 under section 10(a) of this act, in addition to section 8  
17 of this act and for the period commencing July 1, 2014, and  
18 ending June 30, 2017, one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00)  
19 is appropriated from the general fund to the department of  
20 education for a grant program available to school districts  
21 or other nonprofit service providers for developing,  
22 enhancing and sustaining high quality early childhood  
23 education programs, including programs targeting  
24 educationally disadvantaged children. Program grants shall

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

10

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

14

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

18

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

22

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

1

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

4

5 (ii) The total program costs;

6

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

10

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

13

14 (c) Each grant recipient shall report to the  
15 department of education on the expenditure of grant amounts  
16 awarded under this section, including the number of  
17 children served by the early childhood education program  
18 and support services, the impact of the award on total  
19 program delivery, the ability of the community to address  
20 early childhood education needs through use of the grant  
21 award and other criteria established under section 7 of  
22 this act.

23

24 **Section 10.**

1

2 (a) Notwithstanding subsections 8(a) and 9(a) of this  
3 act, up to five percent (5%) of the general fund  
4 appropriation for assistance and grants under sections 8  
5 and 9 of this act, as authorized under section 7 of this  
6 act, may be appropriated on the effective date of this act.

7

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

18

19 **Section 11.**

20

21 (a) Sections 1 through 5 of this act are effective  
22 immediately upon completion of all acts necessary for a  
23 bill to become law as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of  
24 the Wyoming Constitution, only if sections 6 through 10 of

1 this act are not effective as provided by subsection (b) of  
2 this section.

3

4 (b) If a final order by the district court of Laramie  
5 County, Wyoming, is issued implementing without change the  
6 final ruling of the Wyoming Supreme Court issued January  
7 28, 2014, in the case of Kerry and Clara Powers, on behalf  
8 of themselves and the citizens of Wyoming, and Cindy Hill,  
9 on behalf of herself and as the Superintendent of Public  
10 Instruction v. State of Wyoming and Matthew H. Mead,  
11 Governor, in his official capacity [Docket No. S-13-0052],  
12 then upon expiration of time for appeal of that order, or  
13 if appealed, upon issuance of a final order or mandate of  
14 the Wyoming Supreme Court confirming the district court  
15 final order, the Governor shall certify the entry of the  
16 district court final order. The Governor shall immediately  
17 file any certification under this section together with the  
18 final order with the secretary of state. Upon filing the  
19 certification with the secretary of state, sections 6  
20 through 10 of this act are effective and shall supersede  
21 sections 1 through 5 of this act.

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23

(END)