



December 2011

## Director's Note

*By Director Bette Hyde*

The Legislature came to Olympia on Nov. 28 for a special session to work on closing a projected \$1.4 billion to \$2 billion revenue shortfall in the 2011-13 state operating budget. Gov. Chris Gregoire's proposed supplemental budget includes painful cuts to programs and services to help close this gap. She also has proposed a temporary half-cent increase on the state sales tax to prevent or mitigate some of these reductions



The Governor's proposal preserves state funding for several key early learning programs, including the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program, home visiting and the Washington Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (WaKIDS).

The proposal also would:

- Reduce the Working Connections Child Care subsidy program by \$50 million, which would impact about 4,000 households. (This item is on the Governor's "buy back" list if the Legislature approves additional revenue.)
- Eliminate state funding for Reach Out and Read, an early literacy program that uses public and private funding to support pediatricians and other medical practitioners in offering books and early literacy information to families during well-child visits. (\$300,000 savings)
- Eliminate state funding for the Washington State Child Care Resource & Referral Network, which provides child care resource information to parents and helps improve child care quality. (\$1.276 million savings)
- Eliminate state funding for training for informal family, friend and neighbor caregivers (\$400,000 savings)
- Reduces DEL administration (\$950,000 savings)

You can find the Governor's proposal online at [www.ofm.wa.gov/budget12/default.asp](http://www.ofm.wa.gov/budget12/default.asp)

As I often say to my team at DEL, I like to tell the truth, and

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## DEL files family home rules that take effect March 2012

### New rules will improve safety, outcomes for children

On November 14, DEL filed revised rules for family home child care providers. The revisions focus on health, safety and positive outcomes for children.

### What are rules for family home child care providers?

DEL is responsible for providing rules for all licensed child care providers to follow, which are found in Washington Administrative Code (WAC). Child care centers and family home child care providers are subject to different rules. The family home child care rules have not changed significantly since 2004; the changes we filed yesterday are the first major update to the rules since licensing oversight became DEL's responsibility. The new rules take effect in March 2012.

### What do the new rules mean for parents and children?

Providers are required to communicate more

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## Family Home Child Care Rules take effect in March

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information about the their child care philosophy and about each child's development.

Enhanced safety standards for playgrounds, food service, cribs, emergency preparedness, screen time, and nurture and guidance.

### What does this mean for family home child care providers?

A streamlined background check process, through nonexpiring licenses and portable background checks.

All children ages 13 to 16 who live in the home are subject to noncriminal background checks, as are volunteers or assistants ages 14 to 16 who work in the family child care home.

Providers and their staff will be required to meet increased education and training standards. The new rules require, at a minimum, a high school education or equivalent. Current licensed providers have until March 31, 2017 to meet the minimum education requirement.

DEL licensors will work with providers in the coming months to make sure they understand the new rules.

### More information

- **Read the final rules:** [www.del.wa.gov/publications/laws/docs/FHCC\\_final\\_%20annotated\\_111411.pdf](http://www.del.wa.gov/publications/laws/docs/FHCC_final_%20annotated_111411.pdf)
- **Watch DEL Director Bette Hyde discuss new rules:** [goo.gl/7OayM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gl7OayM)
- **More information about the rules is available on our website:** [www.del.wa.gov/laws/development/negotiated.aspx](http://www.del.wa.gov/laws/development/negotiated.aspx)

### How did DEL decide on the rule changes?

DEL formed a group called the negotiated rule-making team that was tasked with developing the rule changes. The team was made up DEL staff, family home child care providers, the family home providers union, and other early learning professionals. Starting in 2007, the team collaborated with providers, legislators, parents and early learning professionals to develop research-based draft rules. DEL presented the draft rules at eight public meetings around the state on evenings and weekends in Spring 2011. As required by state law, DEL also shared the draft rules with Service Employees International Union 925, the union that represents family home child care providers.



## Foundation for Early Learning names fellows for 2011-12

The Foundation for Early Learning named its 2011-12 early learning fellows.

The one-year fellowship will support early learning professionals in developing their leadership skills and completing a project that benefits young children and families in their community. Fellows also receive

a \$2,000 stipend to carry out their project.

The fellows are:

- Ryan Bezanson
- Tina Bixby
- Zakiyyah Cordell
- Laura Garcia
- Ruvine Jimenez
- Luidmila Kryger
- Faisal Malik
- Suzanne McCloskey
- Angela Morris
- Teri Seaton
- Ashley O'Brien
- Faith Hagenhofer

## ELAC Member Q&A: Nina Auerbach, Thrive by Five Washington

Each month, we highlight a member of the Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC), which has members from around the state and meets quarterly to provide input and recommendations to the Department of Early Learning so our strategies and actions are well-informed and broadly supported by parents, child care providers, health/safety experts and interested members of the public.



*Nina Auerbach,  
President & CEO,  
Thrive by Five Washington*

This month, we spotlight ELAC member Nina Auerbach, President and CEO of Thrive by Five Washington, Washington's nonprofit public-private partnership for early learning. Its headquarters is in Seattle.



*Nina with her "kids," Jezzies and Jackson*

- 1. What was your first job?** My very first job was working in a department store. My first job in this field was as a therapist in a day treatment program for children in Ann Arbor, Michigan.
- 2. What drew you to the early learning world?** My work as a therapist with latency and preschool-aged children taught me that even waiting until preschool could be too late in some circumstances in terms of completely turning kids around who had very traumatic early beginnings. Thus, I began to seek a solution that had to do with creating a world where right from the beginning kids got what they needed to be successful. That led me to early learning.
- 3. As an ELAC member, how do you hope to influence a stronger early learning system for Washington?** I am very interested in strengthening the connection between local communities and the statewide work. Working with DEL to plan the effort to create the state/local collaborative governance system is something that my staff has been very involved in, and ELAC will have a major role in this work. Thrive supports the capacity of local coalitions to participate in this effort. One of my roles is to fundraise so that we can bring private resources to this effort.
- 4. Who has had the most influence in your life and**

**why?** Probably my mom, who was the administrator of a state program for the blind and visually disabled in New York. She taught me how to lead with compassion as well as with passionate advocacy for kids' rights.

- 5. What is your favorite childhood memory?** Being with my grandmother, who was a totally fun person, a great storyteller, and smart as a whip, even though she did not have much academic learning.
- 6. How do you spend your free time?** Cooking, working out and pursuing my passion for health and fitness, as well as being with my two wonderful dogs, Jackson (a golden doodle) and Jezzies (a black lab) and my partner.
- 7. What have you done for a child lately?** Well, my dogs are my "kids" and I spend a lot of time taking them for walks and playing with them! I don't work directly with kids and I don't have any of my own, but I do view my work as helping to create a better world for kids generally.
- 8. What historical event or time would you go back to witness?** The end of World War II.

**Next ELAC meeting**

**December 12**

Lacey

## DEL selects 11 members for new Trainer Approval Board

The Department of Early Learning (DEL) has selected the members for its Trainer Approval Board, which reviews and qualifies trainers who provide instruction and training to early care and education and school age professionals.

The volunteer members were selected from a pool of more than 30 applicants during the recruitment period in October and November.

The board is part of Washington's professional development system for child care providers and early childhood educators. It approves trainers to offer STARS credit hours, which are the required hours that all licensed early care and education and school-age professionals are required to meet. DEL's trainer approval process aligns with the goals of the Washington Early Learning Plan and was one recommendation from the Professional Development Consortium.

The new board members are:

- **Linda Ramuta**, Family Child Care Provider and Vice President of South Snohomish County Family Child Care Association
- **Mary Rosier**, Ed.D., Former Dean of Students, Richland School District and WIIN

Center Instructional Strategies/ Reading Consultant K-12, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction

- **Emily Emerson**, M.A., Professional Development Coordinator, School's Out Washington
- **Mary Clevenger-Bright**, Ph.D., Assistant Director/Instructor, Early Childhood & Family Studies Program, College of Education, University of Washington
- **Tilman C. Smith**, M.A., Project Manager, Child Care Resources, Seattle
- **Susan Martin**, M.S., Prevention Coordinator, Educational Service District 105
- **Connie Zapp**, M.Ed, ECSE, Adjunct Faculty, Olympic Community College and Infant Toddler Program Director, Holly Ridge Center
- **Sheryl Garrison**, M.Ed, Adjunct Faculty, South Puget Sound and Centralia Colleges; Professional Development Program Administrator, Child Care Action Council; Training Coordinator, Washington State Resource and Referral Network

- **Vanessa Maanao-French**, MSW, M.Ed, Community Learning Director, Educare Early Learning Center
- **Kathy Schuknecht**, M.S., Program Specialist, Region X Office of Head Start
- **Amber Havens**, M.Ed, Executive Director, Educational Training Partners and School of Education Faculty, City University of Seattle

### New requirements for trainers

All trainers, including those who are not part of the state training system, may begin applying January 1, 2012. Independent trainers and trainers associated with training organizations must apply by September 1, 2012, for individual trainer approval to continue offering STARS credit hours for state trainings without a lapse in approval.

Individual trainers must apply online through the state registry, the Managed Education Registry and Information Tool (MERIT), for one of the trainer levels and complete the application process. The four trainer application levels the board reviews are:

- Apprentice Trainer
- Intermediate Trainer
- Advanced Trainer
- Specialist Trainer

Additional trainer applications include Instructors of Higher Education and Conference/Special Event for one-time events.

For more information, including the new trainer approval process videos, visit: [www.del.wa.gov/requirements/professional/approval.aspx](http://www.del.wa.gov/requirements/professional/approval.aspx).

## Early learning in the news

- [Washington Legislature should hold the line on early learning investment that pays dividends \(Seattle Times editorial\)](#)
- [Gov. Gregoire releases 2012 supplemental budget proposal; shortening the school year included \(Bellingham Herald\)](#)
- [Early education celebrates 25 years \(Pierce County TV\)](#)
- [With Supercommittee's Failure, Early Ed Could Face Cuts in 2013 \(Early Ed Watch\)](#)

## Director's Note

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and then give hope. The truth is, we are in unprecedented times economically in our state, and children and families are feeling the effects. At the same time, though, our state is making tremendous progress in helping ensure every child has the early learning opportunities to start school ready to thrive. Just a few updates:

- **WaKIDS is being offered to about 11,000 kindergarteners in 68 school districts around the state** this school year, helping teachers make data-driven decisions about instruction and welcoming parents as partners in their child's education.
- With our partners at Thrive by Five Washington, our state is offering **evidence-based home visiting services** to more families and children to support healthy child development.
- We are implementing a **cohesive professional development system** so that those who care for and teach young children have access to high-quality training and education.
- We continue to infuse **quality into licensed child care settings** through our Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) and our licensing and monitoring work (see more in this issue about the updated family home child care rules, which will go into effect in March 2012 and have a stronger focus than ever before on ensuring licensed family homes are safe, healthy *learning* environments).
- We are awaiting word on our application for \$60 million in federal Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge funding to help us move forward in our work even more quickly.

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...our state is making tremendous progress in helping ensure every child has the early learning opportunities to start school ready to thrive.

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On behalf of all of us at DEL, happy holidays and thank you for all you do for children. We are grateful for our many partners—public and private—who are helping build the kind of early learning system our children need and deserve.

*Bette Hryh*

## Federal meal assistance funds available to child care programs

Federal funds are available for eligible non-residential licensed child care centers, family day-care homes, homeless shelters, at-risk centers in Washington to participate in the federal Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).

The CACFP reimburses some costs associated with serving meals to children and qualified adults. In Washington, CACFP is administered by Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction's (OSPI) Child Nutrition Services.

The following care centers and institutions may participate in the CACFP:

- Nonresidential licensed public or private nonprofit child care centers or family day care homes.
- For-profit child care institutions in which at least 25 percent of children served are low income based on the centers licensed capacity or enrolled capacity, whichever is less.
- Child care centers that serve at-risk children.
- Nonprofit homeless shelters that provide temporary residential facilities to children.
- Qualifying public or nonprofit adult centers, or for-profit

adult centers that receive compensation under Title XIX of the Social Security Act for at least 25 percent of their enrolled adults, also are eligible for CACFP reimbursement.

Institutions may apply for the program by contacting Adele Roberts, Child Nutrition Services, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, P.O. Box 47200, Olympia, Washington 98504-7200.

More information is available at: [www.k12.wa.us/Communications/PressReleases2011/FederalMealAssistanceFunds.aspx](http://www.k12.wa.us/Communications/PressReleases2011/FederalMealAssistanceFunds.aspx)