
Legislative Updates to the Early Learning Advisory Council October 17, 2011

Implementing key 2011 legislation

- **Non-expiring licenses (Senate Bill 5625) — Sen. Nick Harper**
 - Authorizes DEL to begin using a non-expiring child care license in July 2011.
 - Helps streamline monitoring visits, so there is not a full renewal visit every three years.
 - Licensors will continue to monitor family homes at least once every 18 months, and centers at least once every 12 months.
 - To qualify for a non-expiring license, providers must be “in good standing” and meet certain requirements.
 - For more information: www.del.wa.gov/requirements/info/
- **Unlicensed child care (Senate Bill 5504) — Sen. Tracey Eide**
 - Doubles the civil penalty DEL can assess for providing unlicensed child care in a family home to \$150 per day. Center penalties remain at \$250 per day.
 - Requires DEL to post online information about unlicensed providers who have not moved forward on the path to licensure within 30 days of being notified by DEL that it must be licensed.
 - That information is now posted on Child Care Check: www.del.wa.gov/check
- **Portable background checks (House Bill 1903) — Rep. Tina Orwall**
 - Creates a portable background check registry by July 1, 2012.
 - Child care employees in licensed facilities will have a three-year “portable” clearance card, which they can use to work in more than one facility during those three years.
 - Improves safety by requiring new background check applicants to do a fingerprint check starting July 1, 2012. (Currently, only people who have lived in Washington fewer than three years must undergo the fingerprint check as part of the background check process.)
 - For more information: www.del.wa.gov/requirements/new/background.aspx
- **Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program expansion**
- **Washington Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (WaKIDS) (Senate Bill 5427) — Sen. Rosemary McAuliffe**
 - Schools with state-funded full-day kindergarten classrooms can use WaKIDS on a voluntary basis during the 2011-2012 school year, and must use it beginning in the 2012-2013 school year. Schools that participated in the 2010-2011 WaKIDS pilot may participate. Other schools may choose to participate.
 - Directed DEL and OSPI to conduct a fairness and bias review of the assessment process before implementing WaKIDS.
 - For more information: www.k12.wa.us/wakids

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2012 Potential Agency Request Legislation

- **Quality Rating and Improvement System**
 - Add statutory language about purpose, structure
- **12-month Working Connections Child Care subsidy authorization**
 - Recent “continuity of care” study
 - Federal Office of Child Care memo
- **Public records**
 - Exemption of child information in privately owned early learning programs
- **Early learning guidelines**
 - Require DEL (and possibly the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction) to formally adopt guidelines, convene committee to review every five years
- **DEL/Department of Social and Health Services information sharing**
 - Statutory authority for DEL staff to access some Children’s Administration records for use in licensing