



GOVERNOR INSLEE BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

2025-27

Office of Financial Management Budget Links:

- [Operating Budget Appropriations Bill](#)
- [Budget and Policy Highlights](#)
- [Agency Recommendation Summaries](#)
- [Revenue Proposal](#)

EARLY CARE & EDUCATION:

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION & ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (ECEAP): Due to workforce challenges and budget constraints ECEAP enrollment is adjusted to 2030-2031 school year (previously 2026-27), which amounts to a \$145M decrease in funding. To support the updated plan the Governor Inslee proposed:

- \$55.6M ECEAP rate increase: 18% rate increase for school day slots starting July 2025 to stabilize providers and build slot capacity.
- \$9.3M increase for slot conversion/expansion: Converts 250 part-day slots to school day slots and adds 500 more school day slots and captures 845 unfilled part-day ECEAP slots as savings.

WORKING CONNECTIONS CHILD CARE (WCCC):

Investments maintain current eligibility but delays expansion to families with incomes up to 75% of the state median income to FY 2031. Investments in WCCC includes:

- \$510M to DCYF to raise provider subsidy rates up to the 85th percentile of 2024 market rates.
- \$66M to comply with new federal CCDF rules, which aligns subsidy child care with the provided market (required to maintain access to federal grant program).
- \$4.8M increase for family outreach.

Other ECE Investments:

- \$2M OSPI & DCYF to distribute one-time grants to school districts to blend ECEAP and Transition to Kindergarten classrooms. (OSPI)

K12 STEM:

- \$1.2M to support the Education Research and Data Center's data system modernization.
- \$586K maintained- to support district implementation of the High School and Beyond Plans.
- \$2M increase for Mastery Based Learning (SBE)
- \$273K in new funding to support graduation requirements update (Future Ready-SBE)

PATHWAYS TO CREDENTIALS AND CAREERS:

- \$46.1M increase to maintain the Washington College Grant eligibility at 65% MFI. (WSAC).
- \$1M increase to support increasing awards for the Washington Award for Vocational Excellence Program (WAVE) for CTE students.

CAREER CONNECT WASHINGTON:

- \$6M increase in state funding to replace the lapse in federal funding for CCW directed to the Employment Security Department for Learning Grants including sector intermediary grants, technical support grants and administrative expenses.
- CCW allocations to WSAC, SBCTC, OSPI and the Governor's office are maintained.