STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES
1500 Jefferson Street, SE ● P.O. Box 40975 ● Olympia WA 98504-0975

March 9, 2026

TO: Interested Persons

FROM: Jennifer Jones, ECEAP Strategic Planning and Operations Manager

SUBJECT: CONCISE EXPLANATORY STATEMENT *(RCW 34.05.325)*

For rules proposed under notice filed as WSR #26-01-010 on December 4, 2025:

New:
- 110-425-0035 Nondiscrimination.
- 110-425-0070 Date of birth verification.
- 110-425-0088 Statewide limits on enrollment for allowed and early entry children in ECEAP.

Amended:
- 110-425-0010 Legal basis for the early childhood education and assistance program (ECEAP).
- 110-425-0020 Purpose.
- 110-425-0030 Definitions.
- 110-425-0040 Allocating or awarding funds.
- 110-425-0050 Use of funds.
- 110-425-0060 Comprehensive service delivery.
- 110-425-0080 Children eligible for enrollment.
- 110-425-0083 Enrolling allowed and early entry children.
- 110-425-0084 Duration of enrollment and allowance dual enrollments.
- 110-425-0085 ECEAP prioritization system.
- 110-425-0087 Contractor slots for children who exceed the SMI eligibility.
- 110-425-0090 ECEAP requirements for staff coverage, hiring, and position qualifications

REASON FOR ADOPTION:

The Early Learning Division is revising Chapter 110-425 WAC Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) and creating a new section to comply with 2025 legislation. House Bill (HB) 1351 changed the ECEAP eligibility and expanded enrollment effective July 1, 2025. In addition, there were changes in requirements in RCW 43.216.512 and 43.216.513 and the WACs were updated to meet these new enrollment rules.

SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES MADE SINCE THE RULE WAS PROPOSED: None.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED	THE DEPARTMENT CONSIDERED ALL THE COMMENTS. THE ACTIONS TAKEN IN RESPONSE TO THE COMMENTS, OR THE REASONS NO ACTIONS WERE TAKEN, FOLLOW
Commentor raised concerns that expanding eligibility for an already free preschool program comes at a time when private childcare centers are	No action taken. The WAC revisions were made to align with the legislative changes from HB 1351.

struggling to survive and have significant open availability. They urged the city and state to consider a more balanced approach that strengthens the entire early childhood system.	
Commenter raised concerns that DCYF should increase safety protection, clear procedures, and accountability measures.	No action taken. ECEAP will continue to monitor compliance with requirements in the provider's contracts and performance standards as ECEAP expands.
Commenter shared concerns over an increase in care and programs available to children ages three to five will impact programs supporting birth-3 and their ability to remain sustainable.	No action taken. The WAC revisions were made to align with the legislative changes from HB 1351.

cc: DCYF Rules Coordinator