

West's RCWA 43.215.200

43.215.200. Director's licensing duties

Effective: July 22, 2011

It shall be the director's duty with regard to licensing:

(1) In consultation and with the advice and assistance of persons representative of the various type agencies to be licensed, to designate categories of child care facilities for which separate or different requirements shall be developed as may be appropriate whether because of variations in the ages and other characteristics of the children served, variations in the purposes and services offered or size or structure of the agencies to be licensed, or because of any other factor relevant thereto;

(2) In consultation with the state fire marshal's office, the director shall use an interagency process to address health and safety requirements for child care programs that serve school-age children and are operated in buildings that contain public or private schools that safely serve children during times in which school is in session;

(3) In consultation and with the advice and assistance of parents or guardians, and persons representative of the various type agencies to be licensed, to adopt and publish minimum requirements for licensing applicable to each of the various categories of agencies to be licensed under this chapter;

(4) In consultation with law enforcement personnel, the director shall investigate the conviction record or pending charges of each agency and its staff seeking licensure or relicensure, and other persons having unsupervised access to children in care;

(5) To satisfy the shared background check requirements provided for in RCW 43.215.215 and 43.20A.710, the department of early learning and the department of social and health services shall share federal fingerprint-based background check results as permitted under the law. The purpose of this provision is to allow both departments to fulfill their joint background check responsibility of checking any individual who may have unsupervised access to vulnerable adults, children, or juveniles. Neither department may share the federal background check results with any other state agency or person;

(6) To issue, revoke, or deny licenses to agencies pursuant to this chapter. Licenses shall specify the category of care that an agency is authorized to render and the ages and number of children to be served;

(7) To prescribe the procedures and the form and contents of reports necessary for the administration of this chapter and to require regular reports from each licensee;

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(8) To inspect agencies periodically to determine whether or not there is compliance with this chapter and the requirements adopted under this chapter;

(9) To review requirements adopted under this chapter at least every two years and to adopt appropriate changes after consultation with affected groups for child day care requirements; and

(10) To consult with public and private agencies in order to help them improve their methods and facilities for the care and early learning of children.

West's RCWA 43.215.205

43.215.205. Minimum requirements for licensure

Effective: July 22, 2007

Applications for licensure shall require, at a minimum, the following information:

(1) The size and suitability of a facility and the plan of operation for carrying out the purpose for which an applicant seeks a license;

(2) The character, suitability, and competence of an agency and other persons associated with an agency directly responsible for the care of children;

(3) The number of qualified persons required to render the type of care for which an agency seeks a license;

(4) The health, safety, cleanliness, and general adequacy of the premises to provide for the comfort, care, and well-being of children;

(5) The provision of necessary care and early learning, including food, supervision, and discipline; physical, mental, and social well-being; and educational and recreational opportunities for those served;

(6) The financial ability of an agency to comply with minimum requirements established under this chapter; and

(7) The maintenance of records pertaining to the care of children.

West's RCWA 43.215.210

43.215.210. Fire protection--Powers and duties of chief of the Washington state patrol

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Effective: July 28, 2013

The chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, shall have the power and it shall be his or her duty:

(1) In consultation with the director and with the advice and assistance of persons representative of the various type agencies to be licensed, to adopt recognized minimum standard requirements pertaining to each category of agency established pursuant to this chapter necessary to protect all persons residing therein from fire hazards;

(2) To adopt licensing minimum standard requirements to allow children who attend classes in a school building during school hours to remain in the same building to participate in before-school or after-school programs and to allow participation in such before-school and after-school programs by children who attend other schools and are transported to attend such before-school and after-school programs;

(3) To make or cause to be made such inspections and investigations of agencies as he or she deems necessary;

(4) To make a periodic review of requirements under *RCW 43.215.200(5) and to adopt necessary changes after consultation as required in subsection (1) of this section;

(5) To issue to applicants for licenses under this chapter who comply with the requirements, a certificate of compliance, a copy of which shall be presented to the department before a license shall be issued, except that an initial license may be issued as provided in RCW 43.215.280.

West's RCWA 43.215.215

**43.215.215. Character, suitability, and competence to provide child care and early learning services--
Fingerprint criminal history record checks--Background check clearance card or certificate--Shared
background checks**

Effective: July 22, 2011

(1) In determining whether an individual is of appropriate character, suitability, and competence to provide child care and early learning services to children, the department may consider the history of past involvement of child protective services or law enforcement agencies with the individual for the purpose of establishing a pattern of conduct, behavior, or inaction with regard to the health, safety, or welfare of a child. No report of child abuse or neglect that has been destroyed or expunged under RCW 26.44.031 may be used for such purposes. No unfounded or inconclusive allegation of child abuse or neglect as defined in RCW 26.44.020 may be disclosed to a provider licensed under this chapter.

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(2) In order to determine the suitability of individuals newly applying for an agency license, new licensees, their new employees, and other persons who newly have unsupervised access to children in care, shall be fingerprinted.

(a) The fingerprints shall be forwarded to the Washington state patrol and federal bureau of investigation for a criminal history record check.

(b)(i) Effective July 1, 2012, all individuals applying for first-time agency licenses, all new employees, and other persons who have not been previously qualified by the department to have unsupervised access to children in care must be fingerprinted and obtain a criminal history record check pursuant to this section.

(ii) Persons required to be fingerprinted and obtain a criminal [history] record check pursuant to this section must pay for the cost of this check as follows: The fee established by the Washington state patrol for the criminal background history check, including the cost of obtaining the fingerprints; and a fee paid to the department for the cost of administering the individual-based/portable background check clearance registry. The fee paid to the department must be deposited into the individual-based/portable background check clearance account established in RCW 43.215.218. The licensee may, but need not, pay these costs on behalf of a prospective employee or reimburse the prospective employee for these costs. The licensee and the prospective employee may share these costs.

(c) The director shall use the fingerprint criminal history record check information solely for the purpose of determining eligibility for a license and for determining the character, suitability, and competence of those persons or agencies, excluding parents, not required to be licensed who are authorized to care for children.

(d) Criminal justice agencies shall provide the director such information as they may have and that the director may require for such purpose.

(e) No later than July 1, 2013, all agency licensees holding licenses prior to July 1, 2012, persons who were employees before July 1, 2012, and persons who have been qualified by the department before July 1, 2012, to have unsupervised access to children in care, must submit a new background application to the department. The department must require persons submitting a new background application pursuant to this subsection (2)(e) to pay a fee to the department for the cost of administering the individual-based/portable background check clearance registry. This fee must be paid into the individual-based/portable background check clearance account established in RCW 43.215.218. The licensee may, but need not, pay these costs on behalf of a prospective employee or reimburse the prospective employee for these costs. The licensee and the prospective employee may share these costs.

(f) The department shall issue a background check clearance card or certificate to the applicant if after the completion of a background check the department concludes the applicant is qualified for unsupervised access to children in care. The background check clearance card or certificate is valid for three years from the date of issuance. A valid card or certificate must be accepted by a potential employer as proof that the applicant has successfully completed a background check as required under this chapter.

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(g) The original applicant for an agency license, licensees, their employees, and other persons who have unsupervised access to children in care shall submit a new background check application to the department, on a form and by a date as determined by the department.

(h) The applicant and agency shall maintain on-site for inspection a copy of the background check clearance card or certificate.

(i) Individuals who have been issued a background check clearance card or certificate shall report nonconviction and conviction information to the department within twenty-four hours of the event constituting the nonconviction or conviction information.

(j) The department shall investigate and conduct a redetermination of an applicant's or licensee's background clearance if the department receives a complaint or information from individuals, a law enforcement agency, or other federal, state, or local government agency. Subject to the requirements contained in RCW 43.215.300 and 43.215.305 and based on a determination that an individual lacks the appropriate character, suitability, or competence to provide child care or early learning services to children, the department may: (i) Invalidate the background card or certificate; or (ii) suspend, modify, or revoke any license authorized by this chapter.

(3) To satisfy the shared background check requirements of the department of early learning and the department of social and health services, each department shall share federal fingerprint-based background check results as permitted under the law. The purpose of this provision is to allow both departments to fulfill their joint background check responsibility of checking any individual who may have unsupervised access to vulnerable adults, children, or juveniles. Neither department may share the federal background check results with any other state agency or person.

West's RCWA 43.215.216

43.215.216. Background check clearance registry--Background application form

Effective: July 22, 2011

Subject to appropriation, the department of early learning shall establish and maintain an individual-based or portable background check clearance registry by July 1, 2012. Any individual seeking a child care license or employment in any child care facility licensed or regulated under current law shall submit a background application on a form prescribed by the department in rule.

West's RCWA 43.215.217

43.215.217. Fee for developing and administering individual-based/portable background check clearance registry

Effective: July 22, 2011

Effective July 1, 2011, all agency licensees shall pay the department a one-time fee established by the department. When establishing the fee, the department must consider the cost of developing and administering the registry, and shall not set a fee which is estimated to generate revenue beyond estimated costs for the development and Current with 2014 Legislation effective on June 12, 2014, the General Effective Date for the 2014 Regular Session, and 2014 Legislation effective July 1, 2014

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administration of the registry. Fee revenues must be deposited in the individual-based/portable background check clearance account created in RCW 43.215.218 and may be expended only for the costs of developing and administering the individual-based/portable background check clearance registry created in RCW 43.215.216.

West's RCWA 43.215.218

43.215.218. Individual-based/portable background check clearance account

Effective: July 22, 2011

The individual-based/portable background check clearance account is created in the custody of the state treasurer. All fees collected pursuant to RCW 43.215.215 and 43.215.217 must be deposited in the account. Expenditures from the account may be made only for development and administration, and implementation of the individual-based/portable background check registry established in RCW 43.215.216. Only the director of the department of early learning or the director's designee may authorize expenditures from the account. The account is subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is not required for expenditures.

West's RCWA 43.215.220

43.215.220. Licensed day care centers--Notice of pesticide use

Effective: July 1, 2006

Licensed child day care centers shall provide notice of pesticide use to parents or guardians of students and employees pursuant to chapter 17.21 RCW.

West's RCWA 43.215.2201

43.215.2201. Repealed by Laws 2007, ch. 17, § 8, eff. July 22, 2007

Effective: July 22, 2007

West's RCWA 43.215.230

43.215.230. Articles of incorporation

Effective: July 1, 2006

A copy of the articles of incorporation of any agency or amendments to the articles of existing corporation agencies shall be sent by the secretary of state to the department at the time such articles or amendments are filed.

West's RCWA 43.215.240

43.215.240. Access to agencies--Records inspection

Effective: July 1, 2006

All agencies subject to this chapter shall accord the department, the chief of the Washington state patrol, and the director of fire protection, or their designees, the right of entrance and the privilege of access to and inspection of

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records for the purpose of determining whether or not there is compliance with the provisions of this chapter and the requirements adopted under it

West's RCWA 43.215.250

43.215.250. License required

Effective: July 1, 2006

(1) It is unlawful for any agency to care for children unless the agency is licensed as provided in this chapter.

(2) A license issued under chapter 74.15 RCW before July 1, 2006, for an agency subject to this chapter after July 1, 2006, is valid until its next renewal, unless otherwise suspended or revoked by the department.

West's RCWA 43.215.255

43.215.255. License fees

Effective: July 22, 2007

(1) The director shall charge fees to the licensee for obtaining a license. The director may waive the fees when, in the discretion of the director, the fees would not be in the best interest of public health and safety, or when the fees would be to the financial disadvantage of the state.

(2) Fees charged shall be based on, but shall not exceed, the cost to the department for the licensure of the activity or class of activities and may include costs of necessary inspection.

(3) The director shall establish the fees charged by rule.

West's RCWA 43.215.260

43.215.260. License application--Nonexpiring licenses--Issuance, renewal, duration

Effective: July 22, 2011

(1) Each agency shall make application for a license or the continuation of a full license to the department on forms prescribed by the department. Upon receipt of such application, the department shall either grant or deny a license or continuation of a full license within ninety days. A license or continuation shall be granted if the agency meets the minimum requirements set forth in this chapter and the departmental requirements consistent with this chapter, except that an initial license may be issued as provided in RCW 43.215.280. The department shall consider whether an agency is in good standing, as defined in subsection (4)(b) of this section, before granting a continuation of a full license. Full licenses provided for in this chapter shall continue to remain valid so long as the licensee meets the requirements for a nonexpiring license in subsection (2) of this section. The licensee, however, shall advise the director of any material change in circumstances which might constitute grounds for reclassification of license as to category. The license issued under this chapter is not transferable and applies only to the licensee and the location stated in the application. For licensed family day care homes having an acceptable history of child care, the license Current with 2014 Legislation effective on June 12, 2014, the General Effective Date for the 2014 Regular Session, and 2014 Legislation effective July 1, 2014

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may remain in effect for two weeks after a move.

(2) In order to qualify for a nonexpiring full license, a licensee must meet the following requirements on an annual basis as established from the date of initial licensure:

(a) Submit the annual licensing fee;

(b) Submit a declaration to the department indicating the licensee's intent to continue operating a licensed child care program, or the intent to cease operation on a date certain;

(c) Submit a declaration of compliance with all licensing rules; and

(d) Submit background check applications on the schedule established by the department.

(3) If a licensee fails to meet the requirements in subsection (2) of this section for continuation of a full license the license expires and the licensee must submit a new application for licensure under this chapter.

(4)(a) Nothing about the nonexpiring license process may interfere with the department's established monitoring practice.

(b) For the purpose of this section, an agency is considered to be in good standing if in the intervening period between monitoring visits the agency does not have any of the following:

(i) Valid complaints;

(ii) A history of noncompliance related to those valid complaints or pending from prior monitoring visits; or

(iii) Other information that when evaluated would result in a finding of noncompliance with this section.

(c) The department shall consider whether an agency is in good standing when determining the most appropriate approach and process for monitoring visits, for the purposes of administrative efficiency while protecting children, consistent with this chapter. If the department determines that an agency is not in good standing, the department may issue a probationary license, as provided in RCW 43.215.290.

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West's RCWA 43.215.270

43.215.270. License renewal

Effective: July 22, 2011

(1) If a licensee desires to apply for a renewal of its license, a request for a renewal shall be filed ninety days before the expiration date of the license. If the department has failed to act at the time of the expiration date of the license, the license shall continue in effect until such time as the department acts.

(2) License renewal under this section does not apply to nonexpiring licenses described in RCW 43.215.260.

West's RCWA 43.215.280

43.215.280. Initial licenses

Effective: July 1, 2006

The director may, at his or her discretion, issue an initial license instead of a full license, to an agency or facility for a period not to exceed six months, renewable for a period not to exceed two years, to allow such agency or facility reasonable time to become eligible for full license.

West's RCWA 43.215.290

43.215.290. Probationary licenses

Effective: July 22, 2011

(1) The department may issue a probationary license to a licensee who has had an initial, expiring, or other license but is temporarily unable to comply with a rule or has been the subject of multiple complaints or concerns about noncompliance if:

(a) The noncompliance does not present an immediate threat to the health and well-being of the children but would be likely to do so if allowed to continue; and

(b) The licensee has a plan approved by the department to correct the area of noncompliance within the probationary period.

(2) Before issuing a probationary license, the department shall, in writing, refer the licensee to the child care resource and referral network or other appropriate resource for technical assistance. The department may issue a probationary license pursuant to subsection (1) of this section if within fifteen working days after the department has sent its referral:

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- (a) The licensee, in writing, has refused the department's referral for technical assistance; or
- (b) The licensee has failed to respond in writing to the department's referral for technical assistance.
- (3) If the licensee accepts the department's referral for technical assistance issued under subsection (2) of this section, the department, the licensee, and the technical assistance provider shall meet within thirty days after the licensee's acceptance. The licensee and the department, in consultation with the technical assistance provider, shall develop a plan to correct the areas of noncompliance identified by the department. If, after sixty days, the licensee has not corrected the areas of noncompliance identified in the plan developed in consultation with the technical assistance provider, the department may issue a probationary license pursuant to subsection (1) of this section.
- (4) A probationary license may be issued for up to six months, and at the discretion of the department it may be extended for an additional six months. The department shall immediately terminate the probationary license, if at any time the noncompliance for which the probationary license was issued presents an immediate threat to the health or well-being of the children.
- (5) The department may, at any time, issue a probationary license for due cause that states the conditions of probation.
- (6) An existing license is invalidated when a probationary license is issued.
- (7) At the expiration of the probationary license, the department shall reinstate the original license for the remainder of its term, issue a new license, or revoke the original license.
- (8) A right to an adjudicative proceeding shall not accrue to the licensee whose license has been placed on probationary status unless the licensee does not agree with the placement on probationary status and the department then suspends, revokes, or modifies the license.

West's RCWA 43.215.300

**43.215.300. Licenses--Denial, suspension, revocation, modification, nonrenewal--Proceedings--
Penalties**

Effective: July 22, 2011

- (1) An agency may be denied a license, or any license issued pursuant to this chapter may be suspended, revoked, modified, or not renewed by the director upon proof (a) that the agency has failed or refused to comply with the provisions of this chapter or the requirements adopted pursuant to this chapter; or (b) that the conditions required for the issuance of a license under this chapter have ceased to exist with respect to such licenses. RCW 43.215.305 Current with 2014 Legislation effective on June 12, 2014, the General Effective Date for the 2014 Regular Session, and 2014 Legislation effective July 1, 2014

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governs notice of a license denial, revocation, suspension, or modification and provides the right to an adjudicative proceeding.

(2) In any adjudicative proceeding regarding the denial, modification, suspension, or revocation of any license under this chapter, the department's decision shall be upheld if it is supported by a preponderance of the evidence.

(3)(a) The department may assess civil monetary penalties upon proof that an agency has failed or refused to comply with the rules adopted under this chapter or that an agency subject to licensing under this chapter is operating without a license except that civil monetary penalties shall not be levied against a licensed foster home.

(b) Monetary penalties levied against unlicensed agencies that submit an application for licensure within thirty days of notification and subsequently become licensed will be forgiven. These penalties may be assessed in addition to or in lieu of other disciplinary actions. Civil monetary penalties, if imposed, may be assessed and collected, with interest, for each day an agency is or was out of compliance.

(c) Civil monetary penalties shall not exceed one hundred fifty dollars per violation for a family day care home and two hundred fifty dollars per violation for child day care centers. Each day upon which the same or substantially similar action occurs is a separate violation subject to the assessment of a separate penalty.

(d) The department shall provide a notification period before a monetary penalty is effective and may forgive the penalty levied if the agency comes into compliance during this period.

(e) The department may suspend, revoke, or not renew a license for failure to pay a civil monetary penalty it has assessed pursuant to this chapter within ten days after such assessment becomes final. RCW 43.215.307 governs notice of a civil monetary penalty and provides the right to an adjudicative proceeding. The preponderance of evidence standard shall apply in adjudicative proceedings related to assessment of civil monetary penalties.

(4)(a) In addition to or in lieu of an enforcement action being taken, the department may place a child day care center or family day care provider on nonreferral status if the center or provider has failed or refused to comply with this chapter or rules adopted under this chapter or an enforcement action has been taken. The nonreferral status may continue until the department determines that: (i) No enforcement action is appropriate; or (ii) a corrective action plan has been successfully concluded.

(b) Whenever a child day care center or family day care provider is placed on nonreferral status, the department shall provide written notification to the child day care center or family day care provider.

(5) The department shall notify appropriate public and private child care resource and referral agencies of the Current with 2014 Legislation effective on June 12, 2014, the General Effective Date for the 2014 Regular Session, and 2014 Legislation effective July 1, 2014

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department's decision to: (a) Take an enforcement action against a child day care center or family day care provider; or (b) place or remove a child day care center or family day care provider on nonreferral status.

West's RCWA 43.215.305

43.215.305. Licenses--Denial, revocation, suspension, or modification--Notice--Effective date of action--Adjudicative proceeding

Effective: July 22, 2007

(1) The department shall give written notice of the denial of an application for a license to the applicant or his or her agent. The department shall give written notice of revocation, suspension, or modification of a license to the licensee or his or her agent. The notice shall state the reasons for the action. The notice shall be personally served in the manner of service of a summons in a civil action or shall be given in another manner that shows proof of receipt.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection and in subsection (4) of this section, revocation, suspension, or modification is effective twenty-eight days after the licensee or the agent receives the notice.

(a) The department may make the date the action is effective later than twenty-eight days after receipt. If the department does so, it shall state the effective date in the written notice given the licensee or agent.

(b) The department may make the date the action is effective sooner than twenty-eight days after receipt when necessary to protect the public health, safety, or welfare. When the department does so, it shall state the effective date and the reasons supporting the effective date in the written notice given to the licensee or agent.

(c) When the department has received certification pursuant to chapter 74.20A RCW from the division of child support that the licensee is a person who is not in compliance with a support order, the department shall provide that the suspension is effective immediately upon receipt of the suspension notice by the licensee.

(3) Except for licensees suspended for noncompliance with a support order under chapter 74.20A RCW, a license applicant or licensee who is aggrieved by a department denial, revocation, suspension, or modification has the right to an adjudicative proceeding. The proceeding is governed by the administrative procedure act, chapter 34.05 RCW. The application must be in writing, state the basis for contesting the adverse action, include a copy of the adverse notice, be served on and received by the department within twenty-eight days of the license applicant's or licensee's receiving the adverse notice, and be served in a manner that shows proof of receipt.

(4)(a) If the department gives a licensee twenty-eight or more days' notice of revocation, suspension, or modification and the licensee files an appeal before its effective date, the department shall not implement the adverse action until the final order has been entered. The presiding or reviewing officer may permit the department to implement part or all of the adverse action while the proceedings are pending if the appellant causes an unreasonable delay in the proceeding, if the circumstances change so that implementation is in the public interest, or Current with 2014 Legislation effective on June 12, 2014, the General Effective Date for the 2014 Regular Session, and 2014 Legislation effective July 1, 2014

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for other good cause.

(b) If the department gives a licensee less than twenty-eight days' notice of revocation, suspension, or modification and the licensee timely files a sufficient appeal, the department may implement the adverse action on the effective date stated in the notice. The presiding or reviewing officer may order the department to stay implementation of part or all of the adverse action while the proceedings are pending if staying implementation is in the public interest or for other good cause.

West's RCWA 43.215.307

43.215.307. Civil fines--Notice--Adjudicative proceeding

Effective: July 22, 2007

(1) The department shall give written notice to the person against whom it assesses a civil fine. The notice shall state the reasons for the adverse action. The notice shall be personally served in the manner of service of a summons in a civil action or shall be given in another manner that shows proof of receipt.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (4) of this section, the civil fine is due and payable twenty-eight days after receipt. The department may make the date the fine is due later than twenty-eight days after receipt. When the department does so, it shall state the effective date in the written notice given the person against whom it assesses the fine.

(3) The person against whom the department assesses a civil fine has the right to an adjudicative proceeding. The proceeding is governed by the administrative procedure act, chapter 34.05 RCW. The application must be in writing, state the basis for contesting the fine, include a copy of the adverse notice, be served on and received by the department within twenty-eight days of the person's receiving the notice of civil fine, and be served in a manner that shows proof of receipt.

(4) If the person files a timely and sufficient appeal, the department shall not implement the action until the final order has been served. The presiding or reviewing officer may permit the department to implement part or all of the action while the proceedings are pending if the appellant causes an unreasonable delay in the proceedings or for other good cause.

West's RCWA 43.215.310

43.215.310. Adjudicative proceedings--Training for administrative law judges

Effective: July 1, 2006

(1) The office of administrative hearings shall not assign nor allow an administrative law judge to preside over an adjudicative hearing regarding denial, modification, suspension, or revocation of any license to provide child care under this chapter, unless such judge has received training related to state and federal laws and department policies and procedures regarding:

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- (a) Child abuse, neglect, and maltreatment;
- (b) Child protective services investigations and standards;
- (c) Licensing activities and standards;
- (d) Child development; and
- (e) Parenting skills.

(2) The office of administrative hearings shall develop and implement a training program that carries out the requirements of this section. The office of administrative hearings shall consult and coordinate with the department in developing the training program. The department may assist the office of administrative hearings in developing and providing training to administrative law judges.

West's RCWA 43.215.320

43.215.320. License or certificate suspension--Noncompliance with support order--Reissuance

Effective: July 1, 2006

The director shall immediately suspend the license or certificate of a person who has been certified pursuant to RCW 74.20A.320 by the department of social and health services as a person who is not in compliance with a support order or a residential or visitation order. If the person has continued to meet all other requirements for reinstatement during the suspension, reissuance of the license or certificate shall be automatic upon the director's receipt of a release issued by the department of social and health services stating that the licensee is in compliance with the order.

West's RCWA 43.215.330

43.215.330. Actions against agencies

Effective: July 1, 2006

Notwithstanding the existence or pursuit of any other remedy, the director may, in the manner provided by law, upon the advice of the attorney general, who shall represent the department in the proceeding, maintain an action in the name of the state for injunction or such other relief as he or she may deem advisable against any agency subject to licensing under the provisions of this chapter or against any such agency not having a license as heretofore provided in this chapter.

West's RCWA 43.215.335

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43.215.335. Unlicensed providers--Notification to agency--Penalty--Posting on web site

Effective: July 22, 2011

When the department suspects that an agency is providing child care services without a license, it shall send notice to that agency within ten days. The notice shall include, but not be limited to, the following information:

- (1) That a license is required and the reasons why;
- (2) That the agency is suspected of providing child care without a license;
- (3) That the agency must immediately stop providing child care until the agency becomes licensed;
- (4) That the department can issue a penalty of one hundred fifty dollars per day for each day a family day care home provided care without being licensed and two hundred fifty dollars for each day a child day care center provided care without being licensed;
- (5) That if the agency does not initiate the licensing process within thirty days of the date of the notice, the department will post on its web site that the agency is providing child care without a license.

West's RCWA 43.215.340

43.215.340. Operating without a license--Penalty

Effective: July 1, 2006

Any agency operating without a license shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. This section shall not be enforceable against an agency until sixty days after the effective date of new rules, applicable to such agency, have been adopted under this chapter.

West's RCWA 43.215.350

43.215.350. Negotiated rule making

Effective: July 22, 2007

The director shall have the power and it shall be the director's duty to engage in negotiated rule making pursuant to RCW 34.05.310(2)(a) with the exclusive representative of the family child care licensees selected in accordance with RCW 43.215.355 and with other affected interests before adopting requirements that affect family child care licensees.

West's RCWA 43.215.355

43.215.355. Negotiated rule making--Statewide unit of family child care licensees--Antitrust immunity,

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intent

Effective: July 22, 2007

(1) Solely for the purposes of negotiated rule making pursuant to RCW 34.05.310(2)(a) and 43.215.350, a statewide unit of all family child care licensees is appropriate. As of June 7, 2006, the exclusive representative of family child care licensees in the statewide unit shall be the representative selected as the majority representative in the election held under the directive of the governor to the secretary of the department of social and health services, dated September 16, 2005. If family child care licensees seek to select a different representative thereafter, the family child care licensees may request that the American arbitration association conduct an election and certify the results of the election.

(2) In enacting this section, the legislature intends to provide state action immunity under federal and state antitrust laws for the joint activities of family child care licensees and their exclusive representative to the extent such activities are authorized by this chapter.

West's RCWA 43.215.360

43.215.360. Minimum licensing requirements--Window blind pull cords

Effective: July 22, 2007

(1) Minimum licensing requirements under this chapter shall include a prohibition on the use of window blinds or other window coverings with pull cords or inner cords capable of forming a loop and posing a risk of strangulation to young children. Window blinds and other coverings that have been manufactured or properly retrofitted in a manner that eliminates the formation of loops posing a risk of strangulation are not prohibited under this section.

(2) When developing and periodically reviewing minimum licensing requirements related to safety of the premises, the director shall consult and give serious consideration to publications of the United States consumer product safety commission.

(3) The department may provide information as available regarding reduced cost or no-cost options for retrofitting or replacing unsafe window blinds and window coverings.

West's RCWA 43.215.370

**43.215.370. Reporting--Actions against agency licensees--Agencies notified of licensing requirement--
Posting on web site**

Effective: July 22, 2011

For the purposes of reporting actions taken against agency licensees, upon the development of an early learning information system, the following actions shall be posted to the department's web site accessible by the public:

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Suspension, surrender, revocation, denial, stayed suspension, or reinstatement of a license. The department shall also post on the web site those agencies subject to licensing that have not initiated the licensing process within thirty days of the department's notification as required in RCW 43.215.300.

West's RCWA 43.215.371

43.215.371. Reporting resignation or termination of individual working in child care agency

Effective: July 22, 2011

Upon resignation or termination with or without cause of any individual working in a child care agency, the child care agency shall report to the department within twenty-four hours if it has knowledge of the following with respect to the individual:

- (1) Any charge or conviction for a crime listed in WAC 170-06-0120;
- (2) Any other charge or conviction for a crime that could be reasonably related to the individual's suitability to provide care for or have unsupervised access to children or care; or
- (3) Any negative action as defined in RCW 43.215.010.

West's RCWA 43.215.400

43.215.400. Early childhood education and assistance program--Intent

Effective: July 1, 2006

It is the intent of the legislature to establish an early childhood state education and assistance program. This special assistance program is a voluntary enrichment program to help prepare some children to enter the common school system and shall be offered only as funds are available. This program is not a part of the basic program of education which must be fully funded by the legislature under Article IX, section 1 of the state Constitution.

West's RCWA 43.215.405

43.215.405. Definitions *(Effective until June 30, 2018)*

Effective: June 12, 2014 to June 29, 2018

Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout RCW 43.215.400 through 43.215.457 and 43.215.900 through 43.215.903.

- (1) "Advisory committee" means the advisory committee under RCW 43.215.420.

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(2) "Approved programs" means those state-supported education and special assistance programs which are recognized by the department as meeting the minimum program rules adopted by the department to qualify under RCW 43.215.400 through 43.215.450 and 43.215.900 through 43.215.903 and are designated as eligible for funding by the department under RCW 43.215.430 and 43.215.440.

(3) "Comprehensive" means an assistance program that focuses on the needs of the child and includes education, health, and family support services.

(4) "Department" means the department of early learning.

(5)(a) "Eligible child" means a child not eligible for kindergarten whose family income is at or below one hundred ten percent of the federal poverty level, as published annually by the federal department of health and human services, and includes a child whose family is eligible for public assistance, and who is not a participant in a federal or state program providing comprehensive services; a child eligible for special education due to disability under RCW 28A.155.020; and may include children who are eligible under rules adopted by the department if the number of such children equals not more than ten percent of the total enrollment in the early childhood program. Priority for enrollment shall be given to children from families with the lowest income, children in foster care, or to eligible children from families with multiple needs.

(b) Subject to the availability of appropriations specifically for this purpose, the department may include as an eligible child, a child who is not otherwise receiving services under (a) of this subsection, but is receiving child protective services under RCW 26.44.020(3), or family assessment response services under RCW 26.44.260. If included as an eligible child, these children shall receive priority services under (a) of this subsection.

(6) "Family support services" means providing opportunities for parents to:

(a) Actively participate in their child's early childhood program;

(b) Increase their knowledge of child development and parenting skills;

(c) Further their education and training;

(d) Increase their ability to use needed services in the community;

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(e) Increase their self-reliance.

West's RCWA 43.215.410

43.215.410. Early childhood education and assistance program--Admission and funding

Effective: July 1, 2006

The department shall administer a state-supported early childhood education and assistance program to assist eligible children with educational, social, health, nutritional, and cultural development to enhance their opportunity for success in the common school system. Eligible children shall be admitted to approved early childhood programs to the extent that the legislature provides funds, and additional eligible children may be admitted to the extent that grants and contributions from community sources provide sufficient funds for a program equivalent to that supported by state funds.

West's RCWA 43.215.415

43.215.415. Early childhood education and assistance program--Eligible providers--State-funded support--Requirements

Effective: July 1, 2006

Approved early childhood programs shall receive state-funded support through the department. Public or private nonsectarian organizations, including, but not limited to school districts, educational service districts, community and technical colleges, local governments, or nonprofit organizations, are eligible to participate as providers of the state early childhood program. Funds appropriated for the state program shall be used to continue to operate existing programs or to establish new or expanded early childhood programs, and shall not be used to supplant federally supported head start programs. Funds obtained by providers through voluntary grants or contributions from individuals, agencies, corporations, or organizations may be used to expand or enhance preschool programs so long as program standards established by the department are maintained, but shall not be used to supplant federally supported head start programs or state-supported early childhood programs. Persons applying to conduct the early childhood program shall identify targeted groups and the number of children to be served, program components, the qualifications of instructional and special staff, the source and amount of grants or contributions from sources other than state funds, facilities and equipment support, and transportation and personal care arrangements.

West's RCWA 43.215.420

43.215.420. Early childhood education and assistance program--Advisory committee

Effective: July 1, 2006

The department shall establish an advisory committee composed of interested parents and representatives from the office of the superintendent of public instruction, the division of children and family services within the department of social and health services, early childhood education and development staff preparation programs, the head start programs, school districts, and such other community and business organizations as deemed necessary by the department to assist with the establishment of the preschool program and advise the department on matters regarding the on-going promotion and operation of the program.

West's RCWA 43.215.425

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43.215.425. Early childhood education and assistance program--Rules

Effective: July 1, 2006

The department shall adopt rules under chapter 34.05 RCW for the administration of the early childhood program. Approved early childhood programs shall conduct needs assessments of their service area, identify any targeted groups of children, to include but not be limited to children of seasonal and migrant farmworkers and native American populations living either on or off reservation, and provide to the department a service delivery plan, to the extent practicable, that addresses these targeted populations.

The department in developing rules for the early childhood program shall consult with the advisory committee, and shall consider such factors as coordination with existing head start and other early childhood programs, the preparation necessary for instructors, qualifications of instructors, adequate space and equipment, and special transportation needs. The rules shall specifically require the early childhood programs to provide for parental involvement in participation with their child's program, in local program policy decisions, in development and revision of service delivery systems, and in parent education and training.

West's RCWA 43.215.430

43.215.430. Review of applications

Effective: July 28, 2013

The department shall review applications from public or private nonsectarian organizations for state funding of early childhood education and assistance programs. The department shall consider local community needs, demonstrated capacity, and the need to support a mixed delivery system of early learning that includes alternative models for delivery including licensed centers and licensed family child care providers when reviewing applications.

West's RCWA 43.215.435

43.215.435. Early childhood education and assistance program--Reports

Effective: July 1, 2006

The department shall annually report to the governor and the legislature on the findings of the longitudinal study undertaken to examine and monitor the effectiveness of early childhood educational and assistance services for eligible children to measure, among other elements, if possible, how the average level of performance of children completing this program compare to the average level of performance of all state students in their grade level, and to the average level of performance of those eligible students who did not have access to this program. The evaluation system shall examine how the percentage of these children needing access to special education or remedial programs compares to the overall percentage of children needing such services and compares to the percentage of eligible students who did not have access to this program needing such services.

West's RCWA 43.215.440

43.215.440. Early childhood education and assistance program--State support--Priorities--Program funding levels

Effective: July 1, 2006

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For the purposes of *RCW 28A.215.100 through 28A.215.200 and 28A.215.900 through 28A.215.908, the department may award state support under *RCW 28A.215.100 through 28A.215.160 to increase the numbers of eligible children assisted by the federal or state-supported early childhood programs in this state. Priority shall be given to those geographical areas which include a high percentage of families qualifying under the “eligible child” criteria. The overall program funding level shall be based on an average grant per child consistent with state appropriations made for program costs: PROVIDED, That programs addressing special needs of selected groups or communities shall be recognized in the department’s rules.

West’s RCWA 43.215.445

43.215.445. Early childhood education and assistance program--Reimbursement of advisory committee expenses

Effective: July 1, 2006

The department from funds appropriated for the administration of the program under chapter 418, Laws of 1985 shall reimburse the expenses of the advisory committee.

West’s RCWA 43.215.450

43.215.450. Early childhood education and assistance program--Authority to solicit gifts, grants, and support

Effective: July 1, 2006

The department may solicit gifts, grants, conveyances, bequests and devises for the use or benefit of the early childhood state education and assistance program established by *RCW 28A.215.100 through 28A.215.200 and 28A.215.900 through 28A.215.908. The department shall actively solicit support from business and industry and from the federal government for the state early childhood education and assistance program and shall assist local programs in developing partnerships with the community for eligible children.

**West’s RCWA 43.215.455
Formerly cited as RCWA 43.215.141**

43.215.455. Early learning program--Voluntary preschool opportunities--Program standards

Effective: September 28, 2013

(1) Beginning September 1, 2011, an early learning program to provide voluntary preschool opportunities for children three and four years of age shall be implemented according to the funding and implementation plan in *RCW 43.215.142. The program must be a comprehensive program providing early childhood education and family support, options for parental involvement, and health information, screening, and referral services, as family need is determined. Participation in the program is voluntary. On a space available basis, the program may allow enrollment of children who are not otherwise eligible by assessing a fee.

(2) The first phase of the program shall be implemented by utilizing the program standards and eligibility criteria in

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the early childhood education and assistance program.

(3) The director shall adopt rules for the following program components, as appropriate and necessary during the phased implementation of the program:

(a) Minimum program standards, including lead teacher, assistant teacher, and staff qualifications;

(b) Approval of program providers; and

(c) Accountability and adherence to performance standards.

(4) The department has administrative responsibility for:

(a) Approving and contracting with providers according to rules developed by the director under this section;

(b) In partnership with school districts, monitoring program quality and assuring the program is responsive to the needs of eligible children;

(c) Assuring that program providers work cooperatively with school districts to coordinate the transition from preschool to kindergarten so that children and their families are well-prepared and supported; and

(d) Providing technical assistance to contracted providers.

**West's RCWA 43.215.456
Formerly cited as RCWA 43.215.142**

43.215.456. Early learning program--Voluntary preschool opportunities--Funding and statewide implementation--Reports

Effective: September 28, 2013

(1) Funding for the program of early learning established under this chapter must be appropriated to the department. Allocations must be made on the basis of eligible children enrolled with eligible providers.

(2) The program shall be implemented in phases, so that full implementation is achieved in the 2018-19 school year. Current with 2014 Legislation effective on June 12, 2014, the General Effective Date for the 2014 Regular Session, and 2014 Legislation effective July 1, 2014

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(3) For the initial phase of the early learning program in school years 2011-12 and 2012-13, the legislature shall appropriate funding to the department for implementation of the program in an amount not less than the 2009-2011 enacted budget for the early childhood education and assistance program. The appropriation shall be sufficient to fund an equivalent number of slots as funded in the 2009-2011 enacted budget.

(4) Beginning in the 2013-14 school year, additional funding for the program must be phased in beginning in school districts providing all-day kindergarten programs under RCW 28A.150.315.

(5) Funding shall continue to be phased in incrementally each year until full statewide implementation of the early learning program is achieved in the 2018-19 school year, at which time any eligible child shall be entitled to be enrolled in the program.

(6) The department and the office of financial management shall annually review the caseload forecasts for the program and, beginning December 1, 2012, and annually thereafter, report to the governor and the appropriate committees of the legislature with recommendations for phasing in additional funding necessary to achieve statewide implementation in the 2018-19 school year.

(7) School districts and approved community-based early learning providers may contract with the department to provide services under the program. The department shall collaborate with school districts, community-based providers, and educational service districts to promote an adequate supply of approved providers.

**West's RCWA 43.215.457
Formerly cited as RCWA 43.215.143**

43.215.457. Short title--2010 c 231

Effective: September 28, 2013

Chapter 231, Laws of 2010 may be known as the ready for school act of 2010.

West's RCWA 43.215.460

43.215.460. Findings--Intent--Early start program

Effective: July 28, 2013

The legislature finds that the first five years of a child's life establish the foundation for educational success. The legislature also finds that children who have high quality early learning opportunities from birth through age five are more likely to succeed throughout their K-12 education and beyond. The legislature further finds that the benefits of high quality early learning experiences are particularly significant for low-income parents and children, and provide an opportunity to narrow the opportunity gap in Washington's K-12 educational system. The legislature understands that early supports for high-risk parents of young children through home visiting services show a high return on Current with 2014 Legislation effective on June 12, 2014, the General Effective Date for the 2014 Regular Session, and 2014 Legislation effective July 1, 2014

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investment due to significantly improved chances of better education, health, and life outcomes for children. The legislature further recognizes that, when parents work or go to school, high quality and full-day early learning opportunities should be available and accessible for their children. In order to improve education outcomes, particularly for low-income children, the legislature is committed to expanding high quality early learning opportunities and integrating currently disparate funding streams for all birth-to-five early learning services including, working connections child care and the early childhood education and assistance program, into a single high quality continuum of learning that provides essential services to low-income families and prepares all enrolled children for success in school. The legislature therefore intends to establish the early start program to provide a continuum of high quality and accountable early learning opportunities for Washington's parents and children.

West's RCWA 43.215.495

43.215.495. Child care services--Declaration of policy

Effective: July 27, 2009

It shall be the policy of the state of Washington to:

(1) Recognize the family as the most important social and economic unit of society and support the central role parents play in child rearing. All parents are encouraged to care for and nurture their children through the traditional methods of parental care at home. The availability of quality, affordable child care is a concern for working parents, the costs of care are often beyond the resources of working parents, and child care facilities are not located conveniently to workplaces and neighborhoods. Parents are encouraged to participate fully in the effort to improve the quality of child care services.

(2) Promote a variety of culturally and developmentally appropriate child care settings and services of the highest possible quality in accordance with the basic principle of continuity of care. These settings shall include, but not be limited to, family day care homes, mini-centers, centers and schools.

(3) Promote the growth, development and safety of children by working with community groups including providers and parents to establish standards for quality service, training of child care providers, fair and equitable monitoring, and salary levels commensurate with provider responsibilities and support services.

(4) Promote equal access to quality, affordable, socio-economically integrated child care for all children and families.

(5) Facilitate broad community and private sector involvement in the provision of quality child care services to foster economic development and assist industry through the department of early learning.

West's RCWA 43.215.500

43.215.500. Child care workers--Findings--Intent

Effective: July 1, 2006

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The legislature finds that as of 2000, child care workers in the state earned an average hourly wage of eight dollars and twenty-two cents, only fifty-eight percent received medical insurance through employers, only sixty-six percent received paid sick leave, and only seventy-three percent received paid vacation. The legislature further finds that low wages for child care workers create a barrier for individuals entering the profession, result in child care workers leaving the profession in order to earn a living wage in another profession, and make it difficult for child care workers to afford professional education and training. As a result, the availability of quality child care in the state suffers.

The legislature intends to increase wages to child care workers through establishing a child care career and wage ladder that provides increased wages for child care workers based on their work experience, level of responsibility, and education. To the extent practicable within available funds, this child care career and wage ladder shall mirror the successful child care career and wage ladder pilot project operated by the state between 2000 and 2003. While it is the intent of the legislature to establish the vision of a statewide child care career and wage ladder that will enhance employment quality and stability for child care workers, the legislature also recognizes that funding allocations will determine the extent of statewide implementation of a child care career and wage ladder.

West's RCWA 43.215.502

43.215.502. Child care provider rules review

Effective: July 22, 2007

In conjunction with child care providers and other early learning leaders, the department shall review and revise child care provider rules in order to emphasize the need for mutual respect among parents, providers, and state staff who enforce rules. Revised rules shall clearly focus on keeping children safe and improving early learning outcomes for children. The department shall develop a plan by July 2007 that outlines the process and timelines to complete the rules review. Nothing in this section changes the department's responsibility to collectively bargain over mandatory subjects.

West's RCWA 43.215.505

43.215.505. Child care workers--Career and wage ladder

Effective: July 1, 2006

(1) Subject to the availability of funds appropriated for this specific purpose, the department shall establish a child care career and wage ladder in licensed child care centers that meet the following criteria: (a) At least ten percent of child care slots are dedicated to children whose care is subsidized by the state or any political subdivision thereof or any local government; (b) the center agrees to adopt the child care career and wage ladder, which, at a minimum, shall be at the same pay schedule as existed in the previous child care career and wage ladder pilot project; and (c) the center meets further program standards as established by rule pursuant to *section 4, chapter 507, Laws of 2005.

The child care career and wage ladder shall include wage increments for levels of education, years of relevant experience, levels of work responsibility, relevant early childhood education credits, and relevant requirements in the state training and registry system.

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(2) The department shall establish procedures for the allocation of funds to implement the child care career and wage ladder among child care centers meeting the criteria identified in subsection (1) of this section. In developing these procedures, the department shall:

(a) Review past efforts or administration of the child care career and wage ladder pilot project in order to take advantage of any findings, recommendations, or administrative practices that contributed to that pilot project's success;

(b) Consult with stakeholders, including organizations representing child care teachers and providers, in developing an allocation formula that incorporates consideration of geographic and demographic distribution of child care centers adopting the child care career and wage ladder; and

(c) Develop a system for prioritizing child care centers interested in adopting the child care career and wage ladder that is based on the criteria identified in subsection (1) of this section.

(3) Notwithstanding the requirements of subsection (2) of this section, child care centers meeting the criteria in subsection (1) of this section located in urban areas of the department of social and health services region one shall receive a minimum of fifteen percent of the funds allocated through the child care career and wage ladder, and of these centers, child care centers meeting the criteria in subsection (1) of this section participating in the Spokane tiered reimbursement pilot project shall have first priority for child care career and wage ladder funding.

West's RCWA 43.215.510

43.215.510. Child care workers--Career and wage ladder--Wage increases

Effective: July 28, 2013

Child care centers adopting the child care career and wage ladder established pursuant to RCW 43.215.505 shall increase wages for child care workers who have earned a high school diploma or high school equivalency certificate as provided in RCW 28B.50.536, gain additional years of experience, or accept increasing levels of responsibility in providing child care, in accordance with the child care career and wage ladder. The adoption of a child care career and wage ladder shall not prohibit the provision of wage increases based upon merit. The department shall pay wage increments for child care workers employed by child care centers adopting the child care career and wage ladder established pursuant to RCW 43.215.505 who earn early childhood education credits or meet relevant requirements in the state training and registry system, in accordance with the child care career and wage ladder.

West's RCWA 43.215.520

43.215.520. Child day care centers, family day care providers--Toll-free information number

Effective: July 28, 2013

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(1) The department shall establish and maintain a toll-free telephone number, and an interactive web-based system through which persons may obtain information regarding child day care centers and family day care providers. This number shall be available twenty-four hours a day for persons to request information. The department shall respond to recorded messages left at the number within two business days. The number shall be published in reasonably available printed and electronic media. The number shall be easily identifiable as a number through which persons may obtain information regarding child day care centers and family day care providers as set forth in this section.

(2) Through the toll-free telephone line established by this section, the department shall provide information to callers about: (a) Whether a day care provider is licensed; (b) whether a day care provider's license is current; (c) the general nature of any enforcement against the providers; (d) how to report suspected or observed noncompliance with licensing requirements; (e) how to report alleged abuse or neglect in a day care; (f) how to report health, safety, and welfare concerns in a day care; (g) how to receive follow-up assistance, including information on the office of the family and children's ombuds; and (h) how to receive referral information on other agencies or entities that may be of further assistance to the caller.

(3) Beginning in January 2006, the department shall print the toll-free number established by this section on the face of new licenses issued to child day care centers and family day care providers.

(4) This section shall not be construed to require the disclosure of any information that is exempt from public disclosure under chapter 42.56 RCW.

West's RCWA 43.215.525

43.215.525. Child day care centers, family day care providers--Required postings--Disclosure of complaints

Effective: July 22, 2007

(1) Every child day care center and family day care provider shall prominently post the following items, clearly visible to parents and staff:

(a) The license issued under this chapter;

(b) The department's toll-free telephone number established by RCW 43.215.520;

(c) The notice of any pending enforcement action. The notice must be posted immediately upon receipt. The notice must be posted for at least two weeks or until the violation causing the enforcement action is corrected, whichever is longer;

(d) A notice that inspection reports and any notices of enforcement actions for the previous three years are available Current with 2014 Legislation effective on June 12, 2014, the General Effective Date for the 2014 Regular Session, and 2014 Legislation effective July 1, 2014

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from the licensee and the department; and

(e) Any other information required by the department.

(2) The department shall disclose the receipt, general nature, and resolution or current status of all complaints on record with the department after July 24, 2005, against a child day care center or family day care provider that result in an enforcement action. Information may be posted:

(a) On a web site; or

(b) In a physical location that is easily accessed by parents and potential employers.

(3) This section shall not be construed to require the disclosure of any information that is exempt from public disclosure under chapter 42.56 RCW.

West's RCWA 43.215.530

43.215.530. Child day care centers, family day care providers--Public access to reports and enforcement action notices

Effective: July 22, 2007

(1) Every child day care center and family day care provider shall have readily available for review by the department, parents, and the public a copy of each inspection report and notice of enforcement action received by the center or provider from the department for the past three years. This subsection only applies to reports and notices received on or after July 24, 2005.

(2) The department shall make available to the public during business hours all inspection reports and notices of enforcement actions involving child day care centers and family day care providers. The department shall include in the inspection report a statement of the corrective measures taken by the center or provider.

(3) The department may make available on a publicly accessible web site all inspection reports and notices of licensing actions, including the corrective measures required or taken, involving child day care centers and family day care providers.

(4) This section shall not be construed to require the disclosure of any information that is exempt from public disclosure under chapter 42.56 RCW.

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West's RCWA 43.215.532

43.215.532. County regulation of family day-care centers--Twelve-month pilot projects

Effective: July 26, 2009

(1) Notwithstanding RCW 74.15.030, counties with a population of three thousand or less may adopt and enforce ordinances and regulations as provided in this section for family day-care providers as defined in *RCW 74.15.020(1)(f) as a twelve-month pilot project. Before a county may regulate family day-care providers in accordance with this section, it shall adopt ordinances and regulations that address, at a minimum, the following: (a) The size, safety, cleanliness, and general adequacy of the premises; (b) the plan of operation; (c) the character, suitability, and competence of a family day-care provider and other persons associated with a family day-care provider directly responsible for the care of children served; (d) the number of qualified persons required to render care; (e) the provision of necessary care, including food, clothing, supervision, and discipline; (f) the physical, mental, and social well-being of children served; (g) educational and recreational opportunities for children served; and (h) the maintenance of records pertaining to children served.

(2) The county shall notify the department of social and health services in writing sixty days prior to adoption of the family day-care regulations required pursuant to this section. The transfer of jurisdiction shall occur when the county has notified the department in writing of the effective date of the regulations, and shall be limited to a period of twelve months from the effective date of the regulations. Regulation by counties of family day-care providers as provided in this section shall be administered and enforced by those counties. The department shall not regulate these activities nor shall the department bear any civil liability under chapter 74.15 RCW for the twelve-month pilot period. Upon request, the department shall provide technical assistance to any county that is in the process of adopting the regulations required by this section, and after the regulations become effective.

(3) Any county regulating family day-care providers pursuant to this section shall report to the governor and the appropriate committees of the legislature concerning the outcome of the pilot project upon expiration of the twelve-month pilot period. The report shall include the ordinances and regulations adopted pursuant to subsection (1) of this section and a description of how those ordinances and regulations address the specific areas of regulation identified in subsection (1) of this section.

West's RCWA 43.215.535

43.215.535. Day care insurance

Effective: July 22, 2007

(1) Every licensed child day care center shall, at the time of licensure or renewal and at any inspection, provide to the department proof that the licensee has day care insurance as defined in RCW 48.88.020, or is self-insured pursuant to chapter 48.90 RCW.

(a) Every licensed child day care center shall comply with the following requirements:

(i) Notify the department when coverage has been terminated;

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(ii) Post at the day care center, in a manner likely to be observed by patrons, notice that coverage has lapsed or been terminated;

(iii) Provide written notice to parents that coverage has lapsed or terminated within thirty days of lapse or termination.

(b) Liability limits under this subsection shall be the same as set forth in RCW 48.88.050.

(c) The department may take action as provided in RCW 43.215.300 if the licensee fails to maintain in full force and effect the insurance required by this subsection.

(d) This subsection applies to child day care centers holding licenses, initial licenses, and probationary licenses under this chapter.

(e) A child day care center holding a license under this chapter on July 24, 2005, is not required to be in compliance with this subsection until the time of renewal of the license or until January 1, 2006, whichever is sooner.

(2)(a) Every licensed family day care provider shall, at the time of licensure or renewal either:

(i) Provide to the department proof that the licensee has day care insurance as defined in RCW 48.88.020, or other applicable insurance; or

(ii) Provide written notice of their insurance status on a standard form developed by the department to parents with a child enrolled in family day care and keep a copy of the notice to each parent on file. Family day care providers may choose to opt out of the requirement to have day care or other applicable insurance but must provide written notice of their insurance status to parents with a child enrolled and shall not be subject to the requirements of (b) or (c) of this subsection.

(b) Any licensed family day care provider that provides to the department proof that the licensee has insurance as provided under (a)(i) of this subsection shall comply with the following requirements:

(i) Notify the department when coverage has been terminated;

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(ii) Post at the day care home, in a manner likely to be observed by patrons, notice that coverage has lapsed or been terminated;

(iii) Provide written notice to parents that coverage has lapsed or terminated within thirty days of lapse or termination.

(c) Liability limits under (a)(i) of this subsection shall be the same as set forth in RCW 48.88.050.

(d) The department may take action as provided in RCW 43.215.300 if the licensee fails to comply with the requirements of this subsection.

(e) A family day care provider holding a license under this chapter on July 24, 2005, is not required to be in compliance with this subsection until the time of renewal of the license or until January 1, 2006, whichever is sooner.

(3) Noncompliance or compliance with the provisions of this section shall not constitute evidence of liability or nonliability in any injury litigation.

West's RCWA 43.215.540

43.215.540. Child care providers--Tiered-reimbursement system--Pilot sites

Effective: July 1, 2006

(1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the department shall implement the tiered-reimbursement system developed pursuant to section 6, chapter 490, Laws of 2005. Implementation of the tiered-reimbursement system shall initially consist of two pilot sites in different geographic regions of the state with demonstrated public-private partnerships, with statewide implementation to follow.

(2) In implementing the tiered-reimbursement system, consideration shall be given to child care providers who provide staff wage progression.

(3) The department shall begin implementation of the two pilot sites by March 30, 2006.

West's RCWA 43.215.545

43.215.545. Child care services

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Effective: July 28, 2013

The department of early learning shall:

(1) Work in conjunction with the statewide child care resource and referral network as well as local governments, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and community child care advocates to create local child care resource and referral organizations. These organizations may carry out needs assessments, resource development, provider training, technical assistance, and parent information and training;

(2) Actively seek public and private money for distribution as grants to the statewide child care resource and referral network and to existing or potential local child care resource and referral organizations;

(3) Adopt rules regarding the application for and distribution of grants to local child care resource and referral organizations. The rules shall, at a minimum, require an applicant to submit a plan for achieving the following objectives:

(a) Provide parents with information about child care resources, including location of services and subsidies;

(b) Carry out child care provider recruitment and training programs, including training under RCW 74.25.040;

(c) Offer support services, such as parent and provider seminars, toy-lending libraries, and substitute banks;

(d) Provide information for businesses regarding child care supply and demand;

(e) Advocate for increased public and private sector resources devoted to child care;

(f) Provide technical assistance to employers regarding employee child care services; and

(g) Serve recipients of temporary assistance for needy families and working parents with incomes at or below household incomes of two hundred percent of the federal poverty line;

(4) Provide staff support and technical assistance to the statewide child care resource and referral network and local child care resource and referral organizations;

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(5) Maintain a statewide child care licensing data bank and work with department licensors to provide information to local child care resource and referral organizations about licensed child care providers in the state;

(6) Through the statewide child care resource and referral network and local resource and referral organizations, compile data about local child care needs and availability for future planning and development;

(7) Coordinate with the statewide child care resource and referral network and local child care resource and referral organizations for the provision of training and technical assistance to child care providers;

(8) Collect and assemble information regarding the availability of insurance and of federal and other child care funding to assist state and local agencies, businesses, and other child care providers in offering child care services;

(9) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, beginning September 1, 2013, increase the base rate for all child care providers by ten percent;

(10) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, provide tiered subsidy rate enhancements to child care providers if the provider meets the following requirements:

(a) The provider enrolls in quality rating and improvement system levels 2, 3, 4, or 5;

(b) The provider is actively participating in the early achievers program;

(c) The provider continues to advance towards level 5 of the early achievers program; and

(d) The provider must complete level 2 within thirty months or the reimbursement rate returns the level 1 rate; and

(11) Require exempt providers to participate in continuing education, if adequate funding is available.

West's RCWA 43.215.550

43.215.550. Child care partnership employer liaison

Effective: July 27, 2009

Current with 2014 Legislation effective on June 12, 2014, the General Effective Date for the 2014 Regular Session, and 2014 Legislation effective July 1, 2014

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An employer liaison position is established in the department of early learning to be colocated with the *department of community, trade, and economic development. The employer liaison shall, within appropriated funds:

- (1) Staff and assist the child care partnership in the implementation of its duties;

- (2) Provide technical assistance to employers regarding child care services, working with and through local resource and referral organizations whenever possible. Such technical assistance shall include at a minimum:
 - (a) Assessing the child care needs of employees and prospective employees;

 - (b) Reviewing options available to employers interested in increasing access to child care for their employees;

 - (c) Developing techniques to permit small businesses to increase access to child care for their employees;

 - (d) Reviewing methods of evaluating the impact of child care activities on employers; and

 - (e) Preparing, collecting, and distributing current information for employers on options for increasing involvement in child care; and

- (3) Provide assistance to local child care resource and referral organizations to increase their capacity to provide quality technical assistance to employers in their community.

West's RCWA 43.215.555

43.215.555. Child care expansion grant fund

Effective: July 27, 2009

(1) The legislature recognizes that a severe shortage of child care exists to the detriment of all families and employers throughout the state. Many workers are unable to enter or remain in the workforce due to a shortage of child care resources. The high costs of starting a child care business create a barrier to the creation of new slots, especially for children with special needs.

(2) A child care expansion grant fund is created in the custody of the secretary of the department of social and health services. Grants shall be awarded on a one-time only basis to persons, organizations, or schools needing assistance to start a child care center or mini-center as defined by the department by rule, or to existing licensed child care providers, including family home providers, for the purpose of making capital improvements in order to Current with 2014 Legislation effective on June 12, 2014, the General Effective Date for the 2014 Regular Session, and 2014 Legislation effective July 1, 2014

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accommodate handicapped children as defined under chapter 72.40 RCW, sick children, or infant care, or children needing night time care. No grant may exceed ten thousand dollars. Start-up costs shall not include operational costs after the first three months of business.

(3) Child care expansion grants shall be awarded on the basis of need for the proposed services in the community, within appropriated funds.

(4) The department shall adopt rules under chapter 34.05 RCW setting forth criteria, application procedures, and methods to assure compliance with the purposes described in this section.

West's RCWA 43.215.560

43.215.560. Subsidized child care report and assessment

Effective: July 1, 2011

The department and the department of social and health services, in consultation with interested individuals and organizations, shall jointly:

(1) Identify different options to track subsidized child care attendance, including methods using a land line or cellular telephone, a computer, a point of sale system, or some combination of these methods and report their recommended method to the legislature no later than December 31, 2011. Each department's recommendations must include implementation issues to be addressed and a proposed implementation timeline, and should assume a January 2013 implementation date for the attendance tracking system. The legislature shall review the recommendations and authorize implementation. The method that is chosen must interface smoothly with the current and future payment systems for subsidized child care payments.

(2) Conduct an assessment of the current subsidized child care eligibility determination system and develop recommendations to improve the accuracy, efficiency, and responsiveness of the system, including consideration of the most appropriate entity or entities to make eligibility determinations. The results of the assessment shall be reported to the legislature no later than December 31, 2011.

West's RCWA 43.215.562

43.215.562. Child care subsidy fraud--Referral--Collection of overpayments

Effective: September 28, 2013

(1) The department must refer all suspected incidents of child care subsidy fraud to the department of social and health services office of fraud and accountability for appropriate investigation and action.

(2) For the purposes of this section, "fraud" has the definition in RCW 74.04.004.

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(3) This section does not limit or preclude the department or the department of social and health services from establishing and collecting overpayments consistent with federal regulation or seek other remedies that may be legally available, including but not limited to criminal investigation or prosecution.

West's RCWA 43.215.565

43.215.565. Child care facilities--Compliance with inspections [Tentative classification and name line supplied by publisher]

Effective: June 12, 2014

(1) Before requiring any alterations to a child care facility due to inconsistencies with requirements in chapter 19.27 RCW, the department shall:

(a) Consult with the city or county enforcement official; and

(b) Receive written verification from the city or county enforcement official that the alteration is required.

(2) The department's consultation with the city or county enforcement official is limited to licensed child care space.

(3) Unless there is imminent danger to children or staff, the department may not modify, suspend, or revoke a child care license or business activities while the department is waiting to:

(a) Consult with the city or county enforcement official under subsection (1)(a) of this section; or

(b) Receive written verification from the city or county enforcement official that the alteration is required under subsection (1)(b) of this section.

(4) For the purposes of this section, "child care facility" means a family day care home, school-age care, and child day care center.

West's RCWA 43.215.900

43.215.900. Early childhood education and assistance program--Short title--1985 c 418

Effective: July 1, 2006

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This act shall be known as the early childhood assistance act of 1985.

West's RCWA 43.215.901

43.215.901. Contingency--Effective date--1985 c 418

Effective: July 1, 2006

If specific funding for the purposes of this act, referencing this act by bill number, is not provided by the legislature by July 1, 1987, this act shall be null and void. This act shall be of no effect until such specific funding is provided. If such funding is so provided, this act shall take effect when the legislation providing the funding takes effect.

West's RCWA 43.215.902

43.215.902. Severability--1985 c 418

Effective: July 1, 2006

If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

West's RCWA 43.215.903

43.215.903. Severability--1988 c 174

Effective: July 1, 2006

If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

West's RCWA 43.215.904

43.215.904. Part headings not law--2006 c 265

Effective: July 1, 2006

Part headings used in this act are not any part of the law.

West's RCWA 43.215.905

43.215.905. Effective date--2006 c 265

Effective: July 1, 2006

This act takes effect July 1, 2006.

West's RCWA 43.215.906

43.215.906. Severability--2006 c 265

Current with 2014 Legislation effective on June 12, 2014, the General Effective Date for the 2014 Regular Session, and 2014 Legislation effective July 1, 2014

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Effective: July 1, 2006

If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

West's RCWA 43.215.907

43.215.907. Evaluation of department by joint legislative audit and review committee

Effective: July 1, 2006

By July 1, 2010, the joint legislative audit and review committee shall conduct an evaluation of the implementation and operation of the department of early learning to assess the extent to which:

- (1) Services and programs that previously were administered separately have been effectively integrated;
- (2) Reporting and monitoring activities have been consolidated and made more efficient;
- (3) Consolidation has resulted in administrative efficiencies within the department;
- (4) Child care and early learning services are improved;
- (5) Subsidized child care is available;
- (6) Subsidized child care is affordable;
- (7) The department has been an effective partner in the private-public partnership;
- (8) Procedures have been put in place to respect parents and legal guardians and provide them the opportunity to participate in the development of policies and program decisions affecting their children; and
- (9) The degree and methods by which the agency conducts parent outreach and education.

West's RCWA 43.215.908

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43.215.908. Construction--Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships--2009 c 521

Effective: July 26, 2009

For the purposes of this chapter, the terms spouse, marriage, marital, husband, wife, widow, widower, next of kin, and family shall be interpreted as applying equally to state registered domestic partnerships or individuals in state registered domestic partnerships as well as to marital relationships and married persons, and references to dissolution of marriage shall apply equally to state registered domestic partnerships that have been terminated, dissolved, or invalidated, to the extent that such interpretation does not conflict with federal law. Where necessary to implement chapter 521, Laws of 2009, gender-specific terms such as husband and wife used in any statute, rule, or other law shall be construed to be gender neutral, and applicable to individuals in state registered domestic partnerships.