

HOUSE AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 2025

By COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

March 22

1 On page 1 of the printed bill, delete lines 24 through 27 and delete pages 2 through 4.

2 On page 5, delete lines 1 through 16 and insert:

3 “**SECTION 2.** ORS 329.172 is amended to read:

4 “329.172. (1)(a) **The Preschool Promise Program is established.** The Early Learning Division
5 shall administer [*a preschool program*] **the Preschool Promise Program** as provided by this sec-
6 tion. The [*preschool program*] **Preschool Promise Program** shall expand preschool options avail-
7 able to the children of this state.

8 “(b) **In administering the Preschool Promise Program, the Early Learning Division shall**
9 **identify local entities as provided under subsection (3) of this section within the region**
10 **served by each Early Learning Hub to serve as a preschool provider or as a fiscal agent for**
11 **multiple preschool providers that meet the eligibility criteria established under subsections**
12 **(4) and (5) this section.**

13 “[*(2)(a)*] **(2) For the purpose of expanding and coordinating preschool options under the Pre-**
14 **school Promise Program, Early Learning Hubs shall:**

15 “(a) **Once every two years, in consultation with resource and referral entities established**
16 **under ORS 329A.100 to 329A.135, complete a community plan to identify priority populations**
17 **of children and families to enroll in preschool, to assess the availability of high-quality pre-**
18 **school programs and to identify existing preschool providers and other related services**
19 **within the region served by the Early Learning Hub.**

20 “[*(A) Coordinate the providers of preschool programs under this section.*]

21 “[*(B) Convene annual meetings between representatives of the Oregon prekindergarten program and*
22 *the preschool program described in this section to coordinate the enrollment of eligible children in the*
23 *programs before the eligible children are enrolled. The representatives shall collaborate to determine*
24 *the program that best meets the needs of eligible children and their families within the Early Learning*
25 *Hub.*]

26 “[*(b) The Early Learning Hubs shall apply for state funding, coordinate local planning and enter*
27 *into contracts with preschool providers.*]

28 “(b) **Based on the results of the most recent community plan, annually coordinate and**
29 **collaborate with preschool providers to:**

30 “(A) **Determine the preschool program that best meets the needs of eligible children and**
31 **their families within the Early Learning Hub; and**

32 “(B) **Enroll eligible children in preschool programs.**

33 “(3) **A local entity may apply to the Early Learning Division to be awarded grants or**
34 **contracts to be a preschool provider or to act as a fiscal agent for multiple preschool pro-**
35 **viders under this section if the local entity is:**

- 1 “(a) An Early Learning Hub designated under ORS 417.827;
- 2 “(b) A resource and referral entity established under ORS 329A.100 to 329A.135;
- 3 “(c) An education service district;
- 4 “(d) A school district;
- 5 “(e) A federal Head Start program;
- 6 “(f) A community-based organization; or
- 7 “(g) Another entity identified by the Early Learning Division.

8 “[3] (4) A preschool provider that meets the requirements of this subsection may apply to
9 participate in the [*preschool program described in this section*] **Preschool Promise Program to**
10 **receive grants or contracts under the program.** The preschool provider:

11 “(a) Must be establishing a new preschool program or expanding an existing preschool program.

12 “(b) Must meet or exceed the requirements of subsection [(4)] (5) of this section.

13 “(c) May be a **federal** Head Start program, an Oregon prekindergarten [*program*], a child care
14 provider, a relief nursery, a private preschool, a public school, a public charter school, an education
15 service district or a community-based organization that provides a preschool program.

16 “[4] (5) A preschool provider may participate in the [*preschool program described in this*
17 *section*] **Preschool Promise Program** if the provider’s preschool program:

18 “(a) Provides, at a minimum, the annual number of instructional hours required for full-day
19 kindergarten.

20 “(b) Takes into consideration the scheduling needs of families who need full-time child care.

21 “(c) Serves children who:

22 “(A) Are at least three years of age but not older than five years of age, as determined by the
23 date used to determine kindergarten eligibility; and

24 “(B)(i) Are members of families whose incomes, at the time of enrollment, are at or below 200
25 percent of the federal poverty guidelines; or

26 “(ii) Otherwise meet criteria established by the Early Learning Council by rule.

27 “(d) Provides continuity from infant and toddler services to early elementary grades.

28 “(e) **Demonstrates an ability to maximize available federal, state and local funds.**

29 “[e] (f) Demonstrates quality through meeting standards, including:

30 “(A) [*Attaining one of the top two ratings of*] **Participating in** the quality rating and improve-
31 ment system for early childhood programs.

32 “(B) Adopting culturally responsive teaching methods and practices.

33 “(C) Providing a high-quality, culturally responsive family engagement environment that sup-
34 ports parents as partners in a child’s learning and development.

35 “(D) Providing high-quality, culturally responsive curricula, assessments and professional devel-
36 opment that are linked to one another and to the state’s comprehensive early learning standards.

37 “(E) **Providing a classroom environment that is inclusive of all children, regardless of**
38 **ability or family income.**

39 “[E] (F) Providing highly trained lead preschool teachers who have:

40 “(i) At least a bachelor’s degree in:

41 “(I) Early childhood education or a field related to early childhood education; or

42 “(II) A field not related to early childhood education if the Early Learning Division, based on
43 rules adopted by the Early Learning Council, determines that the teacher has completed coursework
44 that is equivalent to a major in early childhood education and has sufficient training in early
45 childhood education;

1 “(ii) An associate degree with additional training or additional certification in early childhood
2 education or a field related to early childhood education, as determined by the Early Learning Di-
3 vision based on rules adopted by the Early Learning Council; or

4 “(iii) Sufficient alternative credentialing to indicate that the teacher is highly trained, as de-
5 termined by the Early Learning Division based on rules adopted by the Early Learning Council.

6 “[*F*] (G) Providing lead preschool teachers **and teaching assistants** with a salary that meets
7 the minimum salary requirements established by the Early Learning Council.

8 “[*G*] (H) Providing at least one **teaching** assistant in each classroom who provides support for
9 academic instruction and who meets the state’s personnel qualification requirements of one of the
10 top two tiers for the quality rating and improvement system for early childhood programs.

11 “[*H*] (I) Providing **children and families with** additional health and child development sup-
12 ports [*for children and families*], such as screening, referrals and coordination with health care
13 providers.

14 “[*f*] (g) Incorporates best practices in outreach, enrollment and programming for diverse cul-
15 tural and linguistic populations and children who have been historically underserved in preschool
16 programs.

17 “[*g*] (h) Works in collaboration with community programs to ensure that families have knowl-
18 edge of, and are connected to, community resources and supports to meet the needs of children and
19 families served by the preschool program.

20 “[*h*] (i) Participates in an ongoing monitoring and program evaluation system that is used for
21 continuous program improvement.

22 “[*(5)(a)*] (6)(a) While any moneys received under a **grant received or a** contract entered into
23 as provided by this section must be used to serve children described in subsection [*(4)(c)*] (5)(c) of
24 this section, nothing in subsection [*(4)(c)*] (5)(c) of this section prevents a preschool provider from
25 serving additional children, including children who:

26 “(A) Pay tuition for the preschool program and whose family [*incomes*] **income** at the time of
27 enrollment exceeds 200 percent of federal poverty guidelines.

28 “(B) Are funded by the Oregon prekindergarten program, a **federal** Head Start program or an-
29 other source of funding.

30 “(b) If a preschool [*program*] **provider participating in the Preschool Promise Program**
31 serves children described in paragraph (a) of this subsection, moneys received under a **grant or**
32 contract as provided by this section may not be used to pay for expenses incurred for the children
33 described in paragraph (a) of this subsection.

34 “[*(6)*] (7) A preschool [*program*] **provider participating in the Preschool Promise Program**
35 may receive a waiver of any of the requirements described in subsection [*(4)*] (5) of this section if
36 the waiver:

37 “(a) Is for a preschool program that is maintaining progress toward quality; **and**

38 “(b) Is anticipated for the first years of the preschool program only. [*; and*]

39 “[*(c)* *Is granted for only one year at a time.*]

40 “[*(7)*] (8) To assist the Early Learning Division in administering this section, the Early Learning
41 Council shall:

42 “(a) Identify resources necessary for the Early Learning Division to develop, support and sustain
43 the implementation of a high-quality preschool program, including evaluations, professional devel-
44 opment opportunities, technical assistance, monitoring guidance and administrative assistance.

45 “(b) Ensure that pathways and supports are available to teaching staff to increase culturally and

1 linguistically diverse staff to teach and assist in preschool classrooms.

2 “(c) Establish minimum salary requirements and target salary guidelines for lead preschool
3 teachers **and teaching assistants at preschool providers participating in the Preschool Prom-**
4 **ise Program** [as required under subsection (4)(e)(F) of this section]. Minimum salary requirements
5 may be differentiated by program type. Target salary guidelines shall be, to the extent practicable,
6 comparable to lead kindergarten teacher **and teaching assistant** salaries in public schools. The
7 Early Learning Division shall provide guidelines and technical assistance to [programs] **preschool**
8 **providers participating in the Preschool Promise Program** to address salary disparities among
9 preschool teachers and preschool staff.

10 “(d) Develop strategies that strive to increase the mean salary for [lead preschool teachers and
11 other preschool staff in this state] **lead teachers, teaching assistants and other preschool staff**
12 **employed by preschool providers participating in the Preschool Promise Program.**

13 “(e) Administer waivers as described in subsection [(6)] (7) of this section.

14 “(f) **Develop strategies to ensure preschool providers have the resources necessary to**
15 **maintain children in placement in the Preschool Promise Program.**

16 “[8] (9) Each biennium, the Early Learning Division shall submit a report to the Legislative
17 Assembly that describes:

18 “(a) The number of children served by the [preschool program described in this section] **Pre-**
19 **school Promise Program**, including the number of children:

20 “(A) Whose family incomes are at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines;

21 “(B) Whose family incomes are between 100 and 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines;

22 “(C) Who pay tuition; [and]

23 “(D) Who are eligible for Head Start programs[.]; **and**

24 “(E) **Who are eligible for early childhood special education.**

25 “(b) The cost to serve each child described in subsection [(4)(c)] (5)(c) of this section.

26 “(c) The level of state support received for implementing the [preschool program described in this
27 section] **Preschool Promise Program.**

28 “(d) The effectiveness of the [preschool program described in this section] **Preschool Promise**
29 **Program**, including student progress and outcomes.

30 “(e) Improvements that have been made to the administration and evaluation of the [preschool
31 program] **Preschool Promise Program** to improve the effectiveness of the program.

32 “(f) The salary, education levels and turnover rates of lead preschool teachers **and teaching**
33 **assistants** employed by preschool providers **participating in the Preschool Promise Program**
34 [receiving moneys under this section].

35 “[9] (10) The Early Learning Division shall coordinate with the Department of Education and
36 other state agencies in support of the [preschool program described in this section] **Preschool**
37 **Promise Program.**

38 “[10] (11) The Early Learning Division shall prescribe the form and timeline for applications
39 to participate in the [preschool program as provided by this section] **Preschool Promise**
40 **Program.**”.

41 On page 6, delete lines 30 through 32.

42 In line 33, delete “(3)” and insert “(2)”.

43 In line 35, delete “(4)” and insert “(3)”.

44 In line 36, delete “(3)” and insert “(2)”.

45 In line 39, delete “(5)” and insert “(4)”.

- 1 In line 42, delete “(6)” and insert “(5)”.
- 2 In line 45, delete “(7)” and insert “(6)”.
- 3 On page 7, line 2, delete “(8)” and insert “(7)”.
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