

**SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

**Department of Education  
Preschool Promise Program Co-Pay Report**

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On February 11th, the Education Subcommittee recommended acknowledging receipt of a report from the Early Learning Division of the Department of Education on implementing a co-pay system for the Preschool Promise program.

The primary budget bill for the Department of Education included a budget note instructing the Early Learning Division to examine the potential and provide recommendations for a co-pay system for the Preschool Promise program. The program provides preschool to families up to 200% of the federal poverty level. Currently, the program has funding for 1,300 slots, with over 2,500 additional slots to be added for the second year of the biennium with Student Success Act funding.

The Division found that no similar state or local preschool programs had a co-pay requirement at the income eligibility level of the Preschool Promise program. Some programs had co-pay requirements but at much higher income levels. In Seattle, the co-pay started at 325% of the federal poverty level. The Division recommends that a co-pay not be required unless additional funding is made available for the program to serve families with higher incomes.

The Education Subcommittee recommends approval.