

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Item 10: Department of Early Learning and Care Birth Through Five Literacy Plan

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Education Subcommittee
Carrier: Representative McLain

The Education Subcommittee recommends that the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means recommend acknowledging receipt of a report on the Birth Through Five Literacy Plan. The Subcommittee also recommends approving the plan and increasing Other Funds expenditure limitation by \$9.4 million for the Department of Early Learning and Care for implementation of the Birth Through Five Literacy Plan; and increasing Other Funds expenditure limitation by \$9.4 million for the Department of Education for transfer from the Early Learning Account in the Fund for Student Success to the Birth Through Five Literacy Fund, in a budget reconciliation bill during the 2024 legislative session.

A budget note in the budget report for HB 3198 directed the Department of Early Learning and Care to develop and report on the Birth Through Five Literacy Plan. The Department's report contains a plan to distribute grant funds from the Birth Through Five Literacy Fund equally to two of its existing programs: the Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation program, and the Early Childhood Equity Fund. Grant funds are anticipated to pay for professional development for early childhood educators, for development of early literacy curricula, and to increase access to books. Outcome metrics focus on increasing the numbers of educators trained and the numbers of families served. If the plan is approved, grant awards are anticipated to be made by June 2024.

The Education Subcommittee recommends approval.