

REFERENCE TITLE: early childhood education; providers; appropriation

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-seventh Legislature
First Regular Session
2025

SB 1650

Introduced by
Senator Fernandez

AN ACT

AMENDING TITLE 15, CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE 2, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY
ADDING SECTION 15-249.08; APPROPRIATING MONIES; RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Title 15, chapter 2, article 2, Arizona Revised
3 Statutes, is amended by adding section 15-249.08, to read:

4 15-249.08. Quality early childhood education supplemental
5 assistance grant program; eligibility; program
6 requirements; definitions

7 A. THE QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION SUPPLEMENTAL ASSISTANCE
8 GRANT PROGRAM IS ESTABLISHED IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO PROVIDE
9 EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING SERVICES TO CHILDREN FROM LOW-INCOME FAMILIES.

10 B. THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL:

11 1. ESTABLISH APPLICATION PROCEDURES FOR ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS THAT
12 WISH TO APPLY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GRANT PROGRAM. A PROVIDER IS ELIGIBLE
13 TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GRANT PROGRAM IF THE PROVIDER MEETS ALL OF THE
14 FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:

15 (a) IS EITHER:

16 (i) A RECIPIENT OR SUBRECIPIENT OF FEDERAL GRANT MONIES TO PROVIDE
17 COMPREHENSIVE CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES THROUGH A PROGRAM OFFERED UNDER
18 THE HEAD START ACT (P.L. 97-35; 95 STAT. 499; 42 UNITED STATES CODE
19 SECTIONS 9831 THROUGH 9852c).

20 (ii) A SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT RECEIVES FEDERAL MONIES TO PROVIDE A
21 PRESCHOOL PROGRAM PURSUANT TO TITLE I OF THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY
22 EDUCATION ACT OF 1965 (P.L. 89-10; 79 STAT. 27; 20 UNITED STATES CODE
23 SECTIONS 6313 THROUGH 6315).

24 (b) DEMONSTRATES THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL SERVICES IN THE PROVIDER'S
25 SERVICE AREA.

26 (c) DEMONSTRATES THE ABILITY TO EXPAND STAFF, SPACE OR SERVICES TO
27 SERVE ADDITIONAL CHILDREN IF THE PROVIDER RECEIVES ADDITIONAL FUNDING.

28 2. AWARD NEED-BASED GRANTS BEGINNING IN THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR
29 THAT PRIORITIZE PROVIDERS THAT SERVE CHILDREN FROM LOW-INCOME FAMILIES.
30 THE DEPARTMENT MAY ESTABLISH CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING PRIORITY FOR
31 NEED-BASED GRANTS PURSUANT TO THIS PARAGRAPH. GRANT MONIES AWARDED AND
32 DISTRIBUTED PURSUANT TO THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL SUPPLEMENT AND NOT SUPPLANT
33 EXISTING STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDING FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING SERVICES.

34 3. ESTABLISH POLICIES AND PROCEDURES TO IMPLEMENT THE GRANT PROGRAM
35 THAT REQUIRE EACH PARTICIPATING PROVIDER TO PROVIDE EARLY CHILDHOOD
36 LEARNING SERVICES THAT MEET OR EXCEED THE QUALITY STANDARDS THAT APPLY TO
37 THE COMPREHENSIVE CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES THAT ARE PROVIDED THROUGH THE
38 HEAD START PROGRAM OR TITLE I PRESCHOOL PROGRAM, WHICHEVER APPLIES. THE
39 POLICIES AND PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL
40 REQUIRE THE PROVIDER DO ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

41 (a) COORDINATE FUNDING TO ENSURE, TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE BASED ON
42 COMMUNITY DEMOGRAPHICS, MIXED-INCOME CLASSROOMS WITH AT LEAST ONE TEACHER
43 AND TEACHING ASSISTANT, OR TWO TEACHERS, FOR EVERY TWENTY CHILDREN.

44 (b) USE RESEARCH-BASED CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT.

1 (c) USE DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE PROGRAMS THAT INCLUDE LEARNING
2 EXPERIENCES RELATING TO LANGUAGE, LITERACY, SOCIAL SKILLS, EMOTIONAL
3 REGULATION, MATH, SCIENCE, SOCIAL STUDIES, CREATIVE ARTS AND PHYSICAL
4 DEVELOPMENT.

5 (d) PROVIDE A LEARNING ENVIRONMENT THAT INCLUDES:

6 (i) DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE SCHEDULES, LESSON PLANS, INDOOR
7 LEARNING EXPERIENCES AND OUTDOOR LEARNING EXPERIENCES.

8 (ii) TEACHER-DIRECTED AND CHILD-INITIATED ACTIVITIES.

9 (iii) ACTIVE LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND QUIET LEARNING ACTIVITIES.

10 (iv) INDIVIDUAL, SMALL GROUP AND LARGE GROUP LEARNING ACTIVITIES.

11 (v) OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHOICE, PLAY, EXPLORATION AND EXPERIMENTATION
12 AMONG A VARIETY OF LEARNING, SENSORY AND MOTOR EXPERIENCES.

13 (e) ENSURE THAT AT LEAST TEN PERCENT OF CHILDREN WHO RECEIVE
14 SERVICES THAT ARE FUNDED, INCLUDING PARTIAL FUNDING, BY A GRANT PURSUANT
15 TO THIS SECTION ARE CHILDREN WITH A DISABILITY.

16 (f) PROVIDE ALL SERVICES TO A CHILD WITH A DISABILITY IN THE LEAST
17 RESTRICTIVE ENVIRONMENT POSSIBLE AND ENSURE THAT EACH CHILD WITH A
18 DISABILITY FULLY PARTICIPATES IN ALL PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.

19 (g) PROVIDE ANY NECESSARY ACCOMMODATIONS FOR CHILDREN WITH A
20 DISABILITY TO ACCESS FACILITIES, EQUIPMENT, MATERIALS OR SUPPLIES THAT ARE
21 ACCESSIBLE BY OTHER CHILDREN WHO RECEIVE SERVICES FROM THE PROVIDER.

22 (h) COMPLETE OR OBTAIN A CURRENT DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING FOR EACH
23 CHILD NOT LATER THAN FORTY-FIVE DAYS AFTER THE CHILD BEGINS RECEIVING
24 SERVICES FROM THE PROVIDER. IF NECESSARY, THE PROVIDER SHALL REFER THE
25 FAMILY TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR CONDUCTING AN
26 EVALUATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 15-766.

27 (i) OFFER OPPORTUNITIES FOR EACH CHILD'S PARENTS AND FAMILY MEMBERS
28 TO BE INVOLVED IN THE EDUCATION SERVICES, INCLUDING ESTABLISHING A PARENT
29 COUNCIL. A PROVIDER MAY SATISFY THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SUBDIVISION BY
30 INCLUDING PARENTS IN AN EXISTING PARENT COUNCIL ON THE SAME TERMS AS
31 PARENTS WHOSE CHILDREN RECEIVE SERVICES PURSUANT TO A FEDERALLY FUNDED
32 PROGRAM.

33 (j) PROVIDE NUTRITIOUS MEALS, MOVEMENT ACTIVITIES AND HEARING AND
34 VISION SCREENING.

35 (k) PARTNER WITH MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY WHO CAN SUPPORT
36 CHILDREN'S MENTAL, DENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH.

37 (l) SECURE ONGOING EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTATIONS AT
38 LEAST ONCE PER MONTH AND PROVIDE SCREENING OR REFERRALS, OR BOTH, FOR
39 CHILDREN WHO NEED ADDITIONAL SUPPORT AS NECESSARY.

40 (m) ESTABLISH AND IMPLEMENT A SYSTEM OF HEALTH AND SAFETY PRACTICES
41 TO ENSURE THAT CHILDREN ARE SAFE AT ALL TIMES AND PROVIDE SUFFICIENT
42 TRAINING TO EMPLOYEES TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE SYSTEM.

43 (n) PROVIDE ORIENTATION TRAINING TO ALL NEW EMPLOYEES WHO WILL
44 PROVIDE SERVICES DIRECTLY TO CHILDREN NOT LATER THAN THREE MONTHS AFTER
45 THE DATE OF HIRE.

1 (o) PROVIDE ONGOING TRAINING TO ALL EMPLOYEES ON HEALTH, SAFETY AND
2 CHILD CARE REQUIREMENTS DEVELOPED BY THE PROGRAM OR BY FEDERAL, STATE,
3 LOCAL AND, IF APPLICABLE, TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS.

4 (p) ENSURE THAT FAMILIES HAVE LANGUAGE ACCESS TO THE PROGRAM AND,
5 AS APPLICABLE, OFFER DUAL LANGUAGE EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES THAT BOTH SET
6 THE FOUNDATION FOR BILITERACY AND ENSURE THAT EMERGENT BILINGUAL CHILDREN
7 HAVE FULL ACCESS TO THE CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION.

8 4. COORDINATE WITH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROVIDERS OF EARLY CHILDHOOD
9 LEARNING SERVICES, INCLUDING, IF APPLICABLE, ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

10 (a) ONE OR MORE REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCILS ESTABLISHED PURSUANT
11 TO TITLE 8, CHAPTER 13, ARTICLE 2.

12 (b) AN ASSOCIATION OF RECIPIENTS OR SUBRECIPIENTS, OR BOTH, OF
13 FEDERAL GRANT MONIES TO PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
14 THROUGH A HEAD START PROGRAM.

15 (c) OTHER AGENCIES INVOLVED WITH EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND
16 HEALTH ISSUES.

17 C. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION:

18 1. "CHILD WITH A DISABILITY" HAS THE SAME MEANING PRESCRIBED IN
19 SECTION 15-761.

20 2. "LOW-INCOME FAMILY" MEANS A FAMILY WHOSE GROSS HOUSEHOLD INCOME
21 IS AT OR BELOW ONE HUNDRED PERCENT OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL.

22 Sec. 2. Appropriation; department of education; grant
23 program; intent

24 A. The sum of \$175,000,000 is appropriated from the state general
25 fund in fiscal year 2025-2026 to the department of education for the
26 quality early childhood education supplemental assistance grant program
27 established by section 15-249.08, Arizona Revised Statutes, as added by
28 this act.

29 B. The legislature intends that the appropriation made in
30 subsection A of this section be considered ongoing.