

Subject Early care and education; quality, coordination, universal identifier

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Overview

This bill relates to quality and coordination of early care and education programs, including to:

- authorize data sharing to determine early learning scholarship eligibility based on receipt of public assistance;
- establish a universal identifier to identify children across care and education programs;
- require ongoing evaluation of Parent Aware;
- set requirements for kindergarten assessment under the Department of Education;
- create an Early Care and Education Coordination Task Force to develop alignment of the child care assistance program and early learning scholarships; and
- make appropriations in amounts to be determined.

Summary

Section	Description
1	Early childhood programs. Establishes a cross reference in the chapter on data practices.
2	Family home visiting programs. Establishes a cross reference in the chapter on data practices.
3	General. Permits data sharing between the Department of Human Services and the Department of Education to determine eligibility for early learning scholarships. Permits data sharing between the Department of Human Services and the Department of Education on child care assistance program participants and providers.
4	Child care assistance programs. Establishes a cross reference in the chapter on data practices.

Section	Description
5	<p>[Adds § 119.70] Universal identifier.</p> <p>Requires creation by July 1, 2021, of a universal identifier to cross reference children across specified early care and education programs.</p> <p>Identifies applicable programs (including home visiting, child care assistance, school readiness, early learning scholarships, Head Start and Early Head Start, and voluntary prekindergarten). Specifies allowable purposes for accessing the data, including for program coordinated service delivery, reducing burdens, and identifying service gaps. Establishes consent requirements. Authorizes data sharing. Mandates an audit trail.</p>
6	<p>Quality rating and improvement system.</p> <p>Revises requirements for Parent Aware, the state’s quality rating and improvement system for child care and early learning. Requires independent evaluation of Parent Aware by February 1, 2020, and every six years after that, with specified evaluation topics. Requires revision to Parent Aware based on evaluation results. Makes technical changes, including to remove obsolete language.</p>
7	<p>Kindergarten readiness assessment.</p> <p>Establishes requirements for kindergarten assessments under the purview of the Department of Education, including to specify assessment purposes, set conditions for the measurements tools used, and require district reporting when the Department of Education assessment methods are used.</p>
8	<p>Early Care and Education Coordination Task Force.</p> <p>Creates an Early Care and Education Coordination Task Force to enhance coordination of the child care assistance program and early learning scholarships.</p> <p>Identifies task force goals and duties. Specifies membership and appointment authority. Provides for deadlines and task force administration. Requires a legislative report by October 30, 2020. Has the task force expire October 30, 2020.</p>
9	<p>Appropriations.</p> <p>Makes appropriations in amounts to be determined for Parent Aware; kindergarten assessments; universal identifier implementation; and the Early Care and Education Coordination Task Force.</p>



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