



ARIZONA

Early Childhood Education Association

HB 2288 Early Childhood Education Assistance

Goals:

- A. Support Governor Doug Ducey's goal of ensuring world class 21st-Century Education by increasing the enrollment of Arizona's low-income children in High Quality Pre-School and Early Childhood Education to prepare them for success in Kindergarten and beyond.
- B. The Arizona Early Childhood Education Association proposes establishing a tiered reimbursement system to address the Governor's Strategic Goals* of:
 - a. Closing the achievement gap for low-income and minority students
 - b. Providing access and choice to high-quality early learning opportunity

Funding and Structure:

- C. TIERED REIMBURSEMENT** PROPOSAL: Improve and change the substantive goals of existing DES programming to Increase School Readiness
 - a. Targets highest need children in Foster Families, DCS involvement, Low Income Working, Homeless and Domestic Violence victims.
 - b. Families receive vouchers and can choose the provider that works best for them (center, home, faith based, etc.)
 - c. Providers who meet a higher quality standard will trigger an enhanced reimbursement rate. Quality standards include:
 - 3-5 Star Rating from Quality First, the Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board's Quality Rating System, OR
 - Head Start Grantee, OR
 - National Accreditation as recognized by the Arizona Department of Education
 - d. Providers who don't meet High Quality Standards will be contracted at the State base rate
 - e. Increase for High Quality Early Childhood Education Providers based on the 75th percentile of the most recent Market Rate Survey or Cost of Quality data

- f. Brings Arizona into compliance with federal law, the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Reauthorization, before existing waiver expires in September 2017

*<http://education.azgovernor.gov/edu/strategic-goals>

**Tiered Reimbursement gives equal access to High Quality Programs to all children, improves School Readiness to close the achievement gap, and strengthens families incentivizing parents to work while their children learn.

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