



## Child Care Aware of WA Restore Funding for Early Achievers

High-quality early learning has proven to be the best investment our state can make. For 60% of WA’s children under the age of six, child care is early education, because children are receiving early learning in child care. Early Achievers is how WA supports child care small businesses in delivering high-quality care.

Child care quality is incredibly important to realize the potential of early brain development. Eighty-five percent of Early Achievers participants report improving their learning environments and interactions with children as a result of joining Early Achievers. High-quality child care has proven to:

- Increase graduation rates and adult wages
- Reduce special education costs, teen pregnancy and juvenile crime
- Increase workplace productivity for working parents

Since passing the Early Start Act, the Legislature and Governor have created a new \$21 million hole in the Early Achievers budget by replacing state funding with temporary federal funding, despite the fact that over 3,500 child care programs are participating in Early Achievers and are on track to meet the 2020 milestone to be rated “high quality.”

The \$21 million budget shortfall will reduce the supports and resources (quality improvement awards, training, coaching and scholarships) providers need right when they need them the most. This would inevitably derail quality improvement for over 73,000 WA children, and reduce access to quality child care for our most vulnerable children on Working Connections Child Care.

**Child Care Aware of Washington calls on the 2018 Legislature and Governor to restore Washington’s commitment to our most important educators and the young children they care for by restoring the \$21 million that has been cut from Early Achievers.**

### Notes:

1. Katharine Stevens, “Workforce of Today, Workforce of Tomorrow: the Business Case for High-Quality Childcare,” U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, 2017

*“Indeed, the commonly-made distinction between ‘care’ and ‘education’ in early childhood is a false one.... Child care is early education, regardless of the building it occurs in or what we call it. The question is only whether it’s advancing or impeding children’s learning.”<sup>1</sup>*  
*- U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation*

