

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON

Legislative Priorities 2023

Problem:

Early Support providers are required by IDEA Part C to deliver services year-round. Although children and families benefit enormously from the continuity of year-round support, per state law, **WA calculates ESIT funds assuming 180 days of service per year** based on the school model. Thus, ESIT providers are systemically underfunded (at 10/12 months per year, or 83% of the year.)

YEAR-ROUND FUNDING

Solution:

- ▶ Update the ESIT funding model to reflect year-round services by increasing the ESIT per-child special education rate by 20%, representing the 2 months added to the current 10-month funding formula. This preserves the fundamental ESIT funding formula, which is appropriately tied to dynamic state special education rates, while also accounting for the requirements of a year-long Early Support system.
- ▶ In FY23, DCYF forecasts it will spend approximately \$110 million on ESIT. An additional 2 months to fund ESIT year-round would cost the state an additional \$22 million/year.

YEAR-ROUND FUNDING

Problem:

State law specifies that ESIT providers may only count services for the purposes of billing DCYF if those services were provided in the month *prior* to the monthly “count day.” Effectively, this means **providers are not able to bill for their 1st month of services**, although the 1st month tends to be the most expensive.

FIRST MONTH BILLING

Solution:

Ensure that providers can “count” all children being served in each month for the purposes of billing DCYF by amending RCW 43.216.580. ESIT providers should be able to count a child as receiving Early Support services starting from the date at which their Individual Family Service Plan is in place.

FIRST MONTH BILLING