
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PRESCHOOL EDUCATOR TRAINING REQUIREMENTS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State's
2 executive office on early learning public prekindergarten
3 program serves children by providing them with high-quality
4 early learning. This early learning is required by statute to
5 address the children's physical, cognitive, linguistic, social,
6 and emotional development, and to prepare the children for
7 school.

8 The legislature further finds that there are insufficient
9 teachers in the public prekindergarten program with the
10 specialized training necessary to best provide the required
11 high-quality early learning to the State's children.

12 The purpose of this Act is to require that all teachers and
13 educational assistants in the public prekindergarten program
14 have specialized early-childhood training no later than July 1,
15 2022.

16 SECTION 2. Section 302L-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
17 amended to read as follows:



1 "§302L-7 Executive office on early learning public
2 prekindergarten program; public preschools. (a) There is
3 established within the early learning system an early childhood
4 education program to be known as the executive office on early
5 learning public prekindergarten program and to be administered
6 by the office pursuant to rules adopted by the office. The
7 program shall:

8 (1) Be provided through the executive office on early
9 learning, which may partner with the department of
10 education;

11 (2) Prepare children for school and active participation
12 in society through the use of either of the State's
13 two official languages; and

14 (3) Provide access to high-quality early learning that
15 addresses children's physical, cognitive, linguistic,
16 social, and emotional development.

17 (b) The program shall serve children in the year prior to
18 the year of kindergarten eligibility, with priority extended to
19 underserved or at-risk children, as defined in section 302L-1.
20 Enrollment priority shall be given but is not limited to
21 children who attend prekindergarten at schools to which the



1 children will be assigned upon entering kindergarten under
2 section 302A-1143.

3 (c) Enrollment in the program shall be voluntary. A child
4 who is enrolled in, or is eligible to attend, a public
5 elementary school, or who is required to attend school pursuant
6 to section 302A-1132, shall not be eligible for enrollment in
7 the program.

8 (d) The program shall incorporate high-quality standards
9 pursuant to rules adopted by the office. High-quality standards
10 shall be research-based, developmentally-appropriate practices
11 associated with better educational outcomes for children, such
12 as:

13 (1) Positive teacher-child interactions;

14 (2) Use of individual child assessments that are used for
15 ongoing instructional planning, based upon all areas
16 of childhood development and learning, including
17 cognitive, linguistic, social, and emotional
18 approaches to learning and health and physical
19 development;

20 (3) Family engagement; and



(4) Alignment with the Hawaii early learning and development standards, which align with department of education standards, state content and performance standards, and general learner outcomes for grades kindergarten to twelve, to facilitate a seamless and high-quality educational experience for children.

The office shall monitor implementation of the high-quality educational experience for children.

(e) Prior to opening a public prekindergarten class in a school, the principal, and other school personnel as required by the office, shall participate in an early learning induction program.

(f) The office shall provide support to incorporate the high-quality standards developed pursuant to subsection (d), including support related to teacher-child interactions, individual child assessments, and family engagement.

(g) The office shall coordinate with other agencies and programs to facilitate comprehensive services for early learning.

(h) The office shall collect data to:

(1) Evaluate the services provided;



1 (2) Inform policy; and

2 (3) Make any improvements to the program.

3 (i) The department of education and any public charter
4 school existing pursuant to chapter 302D, may use available
5 classrooms for public preschool programs statewide. The office
6 shall give priority to public charter schools that serve high
7 populations of underserved or at-risk children. Preschool
8 classrooms established pursuant to this section shall be in
9 addition to any classrooms used for the pre-plus program
10 established pursuant to rules adopted by the department pursuant
11 to chapter 91.

12 (j) No teacher shall be eligible to teach in the program
13 unless the teacher has completed at least thirty credit hours of
14 coursework on early childhood education from an accredited
15 institution or training program. No educational assistant shall
16 be eligible to work in the program unless the educational
17 assistant has completed at least nine credit hours of coursework
18 on early childhood education from an accredited institution or
19 training program. The requirements imposed by this subsection
20 shall be in addition to any other requirements that may be
21 imposed by law or rule.



1 For purposes of this subsection, "educational assistant"
2 means a person whose duties in the public educational system are
3 primarily to support a teacher who has primary responsibility
4 for the instruction of students within a classroom, who is under
5 the professional supervision of a teacher, and who is in close
6 and continuous contact with students. For purposes of this
7 section, "teacher" has the same meaning as in section 302A-101;
8 provided that it shall not include an educational assistant.

9 [~~(j)~~] (k) The office shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter
10 91 necessary to carry out the purposes of this section,
11 including compliance with all applicable state and federal
12 laws."

13 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
14 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

15 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.



Report Title:

Executive Office on Early Learning; Teacher; Educational
Assistant; Training Requirement

Description:

Requires specialized training in early childhood education for
all teachers and educational assistants within the Executive
Office on Early Learning Public Pre-Kindergarten Program.
Effective July 1, 2022. (SD1)

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not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

