

WAC 392-425-040 Student eligibility. (1) Children meeting the following criteria are eligible to participate in a transition to kindergarten program offered by an eligible local education agency:

(a) A child who has been determined, by the local education agency, to benefit from additional preparation for kindergarten through a screening process and tool; and

(b) A child who is at least four years old by August 31st of the school year in which they enroll in a transition to kindergarten program.

(2) In determining student eligibility and admitting students to a transition to kindergarten program, local education agencies must:

(a) Give priority to children most in need of additional preparation to be successful in kindergarten, as demonstrated through a screening process and tool.

(b) Give priority to children with the lowest family income not otherwise eligible and not enrolled in another local program.

(c) Not exclude, nor establish a policy to prohibit from participation, an eligible child due only to the presence of a disability.

(d) ~~((Not charge tuition or other fees from state-funded eligible students for enrollment in a transition to kindergarten program))~~ Eligible local education agencies are authorized to charge sliding scale fees for enrollment in a transition to kindergarten program, except that no fee may be charged for the following:

(i) Children who are eligible for but not yet placed in the early childhood education or assistance program or the head start program;

(ii) Children with disabilities entitled to a free appropriate public education in accordance with the federal individuals with disabilities education act and chapter 28A.155 RCW.

(e) Tuition and fees collected for students in classrooms receiving state funding for the transition to kindergarten program must be accounted for separately, in accordance with the requirements outlined in the school district accounting manual.

NEW SECTION

WAC 392-425-065 Allocation of state funding. State funding for the transition to kindergarten program will be allocated to eligible local education agencies based on RCW 28A.300.072 and the state omnibus budget requirements. Funding allocations for the 2026-2027 school year will be prioritized as follows:

(1) Eligible local education agencies that received state funding allocations for transition to kindergarten in the previous year will have priority for the subsequent year.

(2) When state funding is insufficient to maintain the number of students served in the subsequent year, eligible local education agencies will be allocated funding based on one or more of the following criteria:

(a) Districtwide percentage of students eligible for free and reduced price lunch;

(b) Districtwide percentage of students eligible for special education services;

(c) Districtwide percentage of students eligible for transitional bilingual program services; and

(d) Data available measuring access to state-funded early learning programs.

(3) Local education agencies serving 20 or fewer transition to kindergarten students will continue to receive sufficient funding to maintain their current services, and their allocation will not be reduced below this level.