

HB 1251 -- EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

SPONSOR: Walker

This bill provides that beginning in the school year 2021-22 all children between the age of three to five years old shall be entitled to a free early childhood education program, and that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) shall, with the assistance of the Department for Health and Senior Services (DHSS) shall create standards to include specific areas as outlined in the bill. The program will provide at least 30 hours of instruction time, and be led by a trained instructor in early childhood education. Additional requirements for the program are specified in the bill.

The bill creates an "Early Childhood Education Fund" in the State Treasury for the early childhood education programs described in the bill.