
ERDC Workgroup

HB 2593

HB 2593 - ERDC Impact Report

- Originally introduced in the 2025 legislative session that has transitioned into a workgroup that replicates the intentions of this bill during the interim with the help of Chair Hartman and Rep. Hudson and/or Rep. Dobson.
- Family Forward + AFT-Oregon will be helping in the creation of this work group

What were the goals of HB 2593?

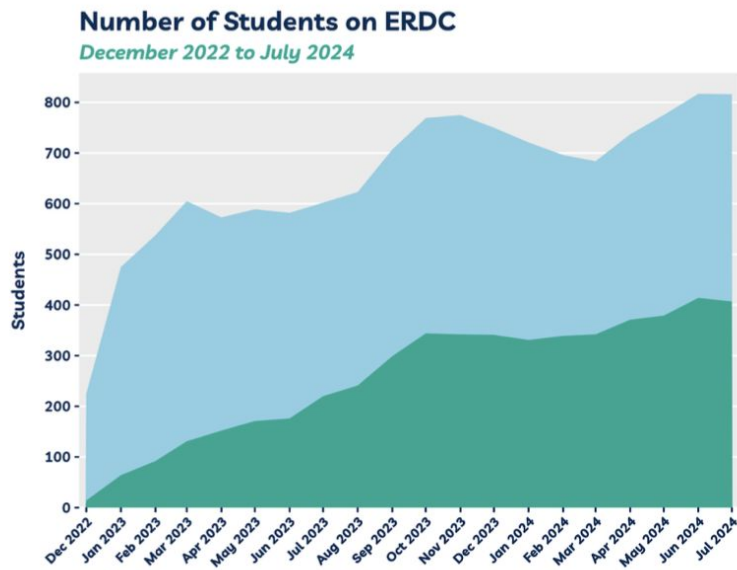
- **Students became eligible for ERDC in 2023**, but the growing waitlist has led to a decline in working parents and student parents accessing childcare.
- **The Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) established a “Student Childcare Grant”** prior to students being ERDC eligible, which provides much needed relief for student-parents, but does not cover the full cost of child-care.
- **Many students do not know of the ERDC program or believe they are ineligible** due to the phrase “employment-related” in the title.
- **HB 2593 sought an impact report** on the progress of changing the name of ERDC to be more accessible to student-parents, and discover the ways in which DELC and campuses are coordinating on ERDC eligibility and applications.

What were the goals of HB 2593?

- If DELC cannot end the waitlist, **data is needed to understand its impact on student and working parents** and ensure these families have a path to access child care assistance.
- HB 2593 ensured that the state **tracks the barriers these families face and monitors enrollment trends** in ERDC.
- The study sought to **identify strategies to increase outreach and enrollment of student and working parents**, ensuring that at least:
 - 20% of ERDC recipients are student parents
 - 50% of ERDC recipients are working parents

Why does this workgroup need to happen?

Undergrad & Grad Students Are Being Left Out



Students became eligible for ERDC in 2023. 2 years later, they make up less than 8% of the caseload.

Working and student parents account for 5% of the caseload, roughly 800 families. Students only account for just 2.5% of caseload, roughly 400 families.

Why does this workgroup need to happen?

- The HECC Childcare Grant is insufficient in addressing student-parent needs, but is filling a vital role. Below is data for FY 2023-24.
 - **41% of applicants** received the grant.
 - **123 total students** served across the state.
 - Award equals roughly **\$798 a month**, on average, given 9 months in an academic year.

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| # Students Served | 123 |
| # Total Dollar Amount Awarded | \$883,815 |
| # Valid Applications | 302 |
| Avg. Award | \$7,185 |

What does this workgroup aim to achieve?

- **Better understanding of the current enrollment** in ERDC and how it has changed since the waitlist was implemented
- **Recommended strategies being implemented or needed** to ensure enrollment meets a minimum of 50% working families and 20% student parents
- **Progress towards changing the program name** so the name reflects the families that are eligible
- **Campus outreach and policies being implemented or recommended** to address student-parent access
- **Provide general recommendations to the legislature on next steps** to improve access and outreach to communities, address the waitlist, and improve the program.

Who are the stakeholders in the workgroup?

- **Childcare advocacy organizations** (e.g. Family Forward, Childcare For Oregon)
- **Organizations and campus staff that support student-parent populations** (e.g. AFT-Oregon, campus benefit navigators)
- **Student-parent(s)** themselves
- **Lawmakers**
- **Department of Early Learning and Care**

Questions?

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