

HB 583 -- Quality Early Childhood Care

Sponsor: Oxford

This bill changes the laws regarding early childhood care. In its main provisions, the bill:

(1) Requires school districts with less than a 50% participation rate in the Parents as Teachers Program that provide outreach services for the program to be given grant funding for their outreach services, subject to appropriations, with priority given to districts that target services to families with incomes below 200% of the federal poverty level;

(2) Requires by July 1, 2015, all licensed child care providers who serve families receiving state-funded child care assistance to be reimbursed at the current market rate established by the biennial state market rate survey conducted by the Department of Social Services under federal guidelines; and

(3) Requires the Department of Social Services to offer grants annually for up to 250 child care professionals through the Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (T.E.A.C.H.) Early Childhood MISSOURI Scholarship Program and the Workforce Incentive Initiative to improve the quality of early childhood programs by increasing the skill level of child care professionals and by reducing workforce turnover.