

Board Action Summary

AGENDA ITEM:

Summary of Recommended Board Action

ACTION:

Discussion item to be followed by vote at the February meeting on method by which the Early Learning Council will provide oversight and administer the Preschool Promise waiver process.

ISSUE:

HB 3380 directs the Early Learning Council to administer waivers. HB 3380 allows for Preschool Promise providers to receive a waiver(s) for some of the requirements outlined in the bill. The bill states that a waiver may be granted if a program is “maintaining progress toward quality; is anticipated for the first years of the preschool program only; and is granted for only one year at a time.”

BACKGROUND:

At their January 28th meeting, the Early Learning Council was introduced to the waiver process and based on that discussion Early Learning Division staff has developed a set of options for the Early Learning Council to provide oversight to the waiver process. The Council will be asked to take action on the waiver process at their March meeting.

ACTION PRECEDING RECOMMENDED BOARD ADOPTION:

The Preschool Promise Ad Hoc Advisory Committee provided input on the waiver process at their November meeting.

CONTACT: David Mandell, Director of Policy & Research
Gwyn Bachtle, Preschool Promise Program Coordinator



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TO: Early Learning Council
FROM: Gwyn Bachtle, Preschool Promise Program Coordinator
RE: Establishing method for council oversight of Waivers
DATE: February 18th, 2016

What does the ELC need to Decide?

HB 3380 directs the Early Learning Council to administer waivers for a defined set of standards listed in the bill. At their January 19th meeting, the Early Learning Council was introduced to the waiver process and based on that discussion Early Learning Division staff has developed a set of options for the Early Learning Council to provide oversight to the waiver process.

The Early Learning Council has the authority to revisit and revise the manner in which the council provides oversight in the future. After the first year of *Preschool Promise*, the Early Learning Council will have much more information about the types of waivers requested and providers' success on completing improvement plans to meet quality standards. Based on that information, the Early Learning Council may choose to modify the method in which the council provides oversight to waiver administration.

Options for Waiver oversight

The three options presented in the table provide the Early Learning Council with varying degrees of involvement at different steps in the waiver approval process. The main consideration is whether the Early Learning Council will be the approving body for all waiver requests (Option A) or if the council will delegate that authority to the Waiver Committee (Option B and C). The second consideration is whether or not the council will choose to have council representation on the Waiver Committee (Options A and B).

Other considerations for selecting an option include; amount of time needed of council members for each option, ability to have efficient and timely turn-around time on waiver requests, and potential confidentiality issues related to individual requests.



Option A	Option B	Option C
Role of Hub & Providers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Hub and Provider prepare Waiver Request applications. The Request is submitted to the ELD and forwarded to the Waiver Committee. 	Role of Hub & Providers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Option A 	Role of Hub & Providers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Option A
Waiver Committee Composition ELD Staff ELC Representation	Waiver Committee Composition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Option A 	Waiver Committee Composition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ELD Staff only
Role of Waiver Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review all Requests Prepare recommendation on Requests for the ELC Prepare summary report for ELC (frequency to be determined). ELC Representative presents reports to ELC. 	Role of Waiver Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review all Requests Approve Requests as deemed appropriate Prepare summary report for ELC (frequency to be determined). ELC Representative(s) presents reports to ELC. 	Role of Waiver Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review all Requests Approve Requests as deemed appropriate Prepare summary report for ELC (frequency to be determined). ELD Staff presents reports to ELC.
ELC Role <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review recommendation from Waiver Committee Approve individual Requests as deemed appropriate 	ELC Role <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acceptance of Summary Reports represents ELC approval 	ELC Role <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Option B
<p><i>Waiver Request Application includes the Request for Waiver, associated Quality Improvement Plan, and request for resources necessary to implement Quality Improvement Plan.</i></p> <p><i>Summary Report to include information on quantity and type of waiver, resources allocated, progress updates, and closed/completed waivers.</i></p>		

