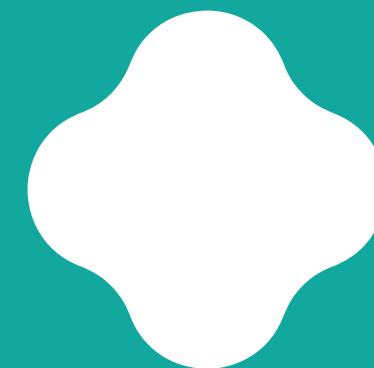


July Advocacy Pod Meeting

Team Advocacy - July 15th, 2026



Agenda



State Advocacy Updates



June Meeting Recap - City Councils & Mayors



Local deep-dive - County Coalitions & Budget Processes



Upcoming Advocacy Opportunities



Next Month: Our Biggest Cities - Seattle & Tacoma

☀ State Advocacy Updates

▶ Millionaires Tax

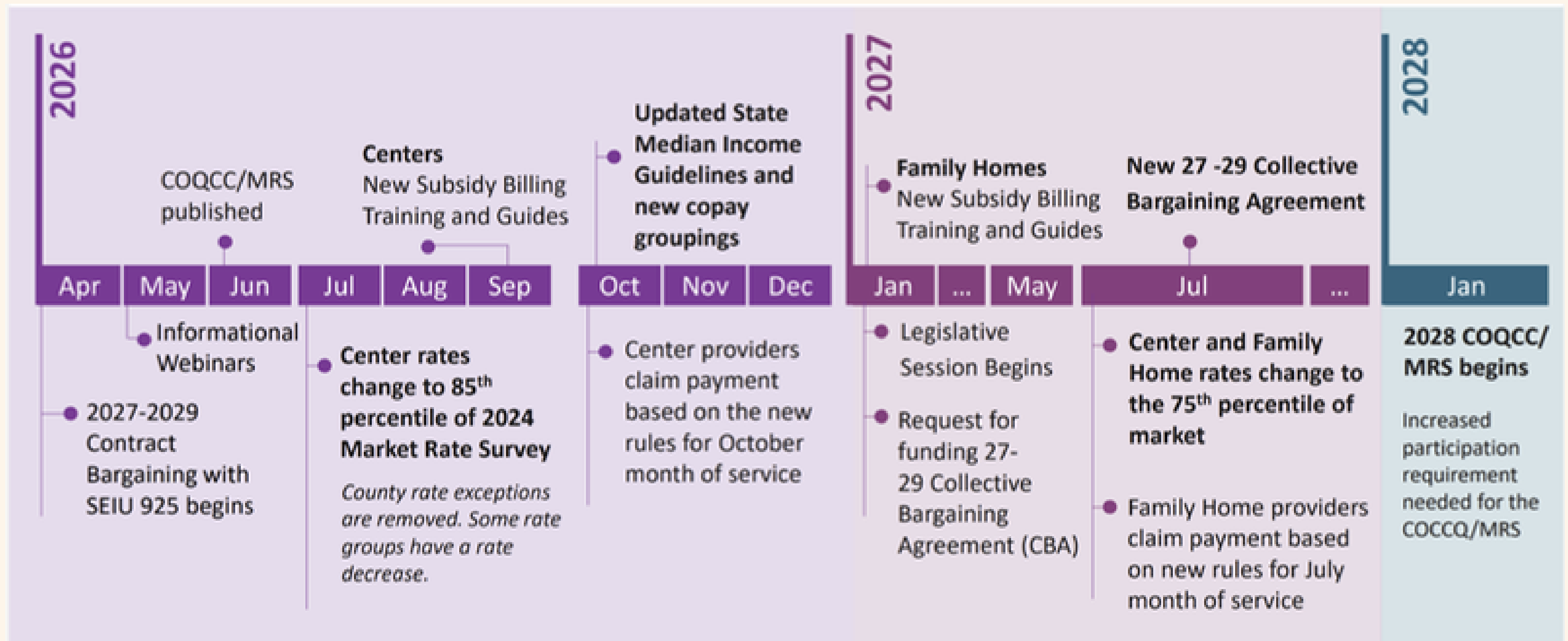
- A statewide ballot initiative will likely appear on the November general election ballots to repeal the tax.

▶ Working Connections Child Care Subsidy

- July 1: Center rates change to 85% percentile of 2024 Market Rate Survey.
 - Center rates will increase by an average of 22%.
 - Region 4 school-age rates will decrease by 13%.
- September 2026: Centers receive new subsidy billing training and guides
- October 2026: Center providers claim payment based on the new attendance-based rule for the October month of service.

☀ State Advocacy Updates

▶ Working Connections Child Care Subsidy



☀️ Want More State Updates or Deep Dives?

▶️ CCA of WA Cohorts

- Monthly meetings
- Feedback loop with Child Care for WA Campaign
- Statewide impact
- Storytelling
- Professional development

Next meeting - July 22nd 12-1pm

Email Jaymie Davis for the link!
j.davis@brightspark.org



JOIN ADVOCACY
Child Care for WA Campaign



Some ways to get involved!

- Meet with legislators to advocate for change
- Stay informed on child care and early learning policies
- Share your story and experiences
- Participate in phone banking
- Connect with fellow parents and providers
- Provide testimony on key issues
- Attend Advocacy Day in Olympia (stipends available)

TO JOIN CONTACT JAYMIE
Jaymie Davis
email: j.davis@childcare.org
phone: 253-514-0252





June Meeting Recap: City Mayors, Councils, and Managers

Comparison of City Governments

Quick recap

First-class cities are not listed as their powers and structures are derived from their charters, which vary depending on the city.

Powers	Code City	Second Class City	Town
Home Rule Authority	Broad authority in all matters of local concern.	Only those powers expressly or implicitly granted by legislature.	Only those powers expressly or implicitly granted by legislature.
Construction of Powers	Requires liberal construction of powers granted to it.	Governed by rule of strict construction of powers granted to it.	Governed by rule of strict construction of powers granted to it.
Limits of Power	All powers granted to any class of city and any not specifically denied.	Only powers granted specifically to this class or all classes.	Only powers granted specifically to this class or all classes.
Limitations on Special Meetings	No approval of an ordinance or resolution granting a franchise.	No approval of an ordinance or resolution granting a franchise or an ordinance, contract, or bill for the payment of money.	No approval of an ordinance or resolution granting a franchise or a resolution or order for the payment of money.
Emergency Clauses	Authority to include in most types of ordinances for protection of public health, safety, property, or peace.	Specific authority only for emergency expenditures in specified situations.	Specific authority only for emergency expenditures in specified situations.

Comparison of City Governments

Quick recap

Powers	Code City	Second Class City	Town
Appointment of Councilmember Pro Tem	Authority in the event of an extended excused absence or disability of a councilmember.	No specific authority.	No specific authority.
Mayor Pro Tem Term Limit	2 years	2 years	6 months
Mayoral Veto Power Over Ordinances*	Yes	Yes	No
Mayor Has Tie-breaking Vote*	Yes, except on issues of payment of money or franchises	No	Yes, except on issues of payment of money or franchises
Council Confirmation of Mayoral Appointments*	May require if no qualifications for office established.	May require for appointment of clerk, treasurer, or attorney.	Not allowed for any appointive officers.

Comparison of City Governments

Quick recap

Powers	Code City	Second Class City	Town
Planning Governance	May adopt a planning commission or a planning department, person, staff, or body, and may provide for an alternative in event of a conflict.	Must adopt a planning commission of 3-12 members.	Must adopt a planning commission of 3-12 members.
Initiative and Referendum	May adopt.	May not adopt.	May not adopt.
Annexation Petition Signature Requirement	Qualified electors equal to 10% of votes cast at last state general election.	Qualified electors equal to 20% of votes cast at last state general election.	Qualified electors equal to 20% of votes cast at last state general election.
Allowance of Wards	Yes, with no restrictions.	Yes, with a maximum number of wards permitted.	Cannot have wards.
Ordinance Effective Date	Five days after publication.	Five days after publication.	Immediately upon publication.

Comparison of City Governments

Quick recap

Characteristics	Mayor-Council	Council-Manager
Legislative authority	Council	Council; ceremonial mayor is part of council
Executive authority	Elected mayor	Appointed manager
Selection of CEO	Popularly elected	Appointed by council on basis of experience
CEO must reside in city?	Yes	No, unless required by local policy
Removal of CEO	Recall election	Removed by majority vote of the council
Tenure of executive	4-year term	Indefinite
Tenure of council	4-year term	4-year term
Appointment of department heads	Mayor (with council confirmation if provided)	Manager (no council confirmation)
Removal of department heads	Mayor	Manager
Veto	Mayor (except for towns)	Manager has no veto
Policy development	Mayor can propose	Manager can recommend
Policy implementation	Mayor	Manager
Underlying principles	Separation of powers; Political leadership; Strong central executive	Separation of politics from administration; Promotes economy and efficiency through professional management; Strong central executive; Follows business model

How do mayors & city councils connect with early learning?

- Funding
 - City budget
 - Human services funding
 - Family / community development
- Zoning & Permitting
 - Siting
 - Parking
- Education Departments & Staff
- Collaboration with schools
 - Before / after care
 - Preschool / TTK
- Transportation

Pierce County Cities

Phase 1 City Types of Government

- Tacoma - Council-Manager First Class City
- Lakewood - Council-Manager Code City
- Puyallup - Council-Manager Code City
- Gig Harbor - Mayor-Council Code City
- Bonney Lake - Mayor-Council Code City
- Fife - Council-Manager Code City

King County Cities

Phase 1 City Types of Government

- Seattle - Mayor-Council First Class City
- Renton - Mayor-Council Code City
- Bellevue - Council-Manager Code City
- Kent - Mayor-Council Code City



Local Deep Dive: County Coalitions

Coalition Opportunity



- Part of the Washington Communities for Children (WCFC) network
- Provides local community resources such as a diaper bank
- Policy & Advocacy meetings hosted monthly on the 4th Tuesday, from 9:30-10:30am



PIERCE COUNTY
EARLY CHILDHOOD
N E T W O R K

PCECN

Coalition Opportunity

- Part of the Washington Communities for Children (WCFC) network
- Provides connection, resources, learning for caregivers, providers, health professionals, advocates, and the full early learning community
- Monthly member meetings hosted on the 4th Monday, 2-3:30pm



brightspark.org/kcelc



Local Deep Dive: County Budget Process

County Budget Process

Overview

- The counties adopt 2 year budgets
- Currently in their 2026-2027 budgets
- Revenue comes from:
 - Property tax
 - Sales tax
 - State and federal funds
 - Rates and fees
- Areas of service are:
 - Public Safety & Criminal Justice
 - Housing & Homelessness
 - Public Health
 - Transportation & Transit
 - Elections / General Government
 - Human / Social Services
 - Parks & Recreation
 - Utilities

County Committees & Commissions

Council members participate in committees, advisory boards, and commissions.

These groups exist to provide recommendations, proposals, and expertise on specific topics that advise the council as a whole when passing the budget and implementing changes.

Committees, commissions, and boards are made up of council members and often community members who can speak on lived experience or represent a community.



County-Specific Committees & Commissions

	KING COUNTY	PIERCE COUNTY
Council Committees	17	5
Early Learning Related Committee	Health, Housing, and Human Services Committee	Health & Human Services Committee
Advisory Boards	50	50
Early Learning Related Boards	• Behavioral health advisory board • Board for Developmental Disabilities • Children and Youth Advisory Board • Best Starts for Kids Levy Advisory Board	• Behavioral health advisory board • Birth to 25 advisory board • Developmental disabilities advisory board • Human services citizens advisory board

County Budget Timeline

Timeframe	What the County is Doing	Best Opportunity for Advocates
April	County Executive and Finance meet with departments to discuss priorities for the next budget.	Begin educating decision-makers. Meet with Executive staff and department leaders (Human Services, Public Health, etc.) before funding decisions are made.
May	Budget instructions are released to departments.	Share community priorities, data, and stories that support investments in early learning.
June	Departments submit budget requests to Finance.	This is the last opportunity to influence departmental requests before the Executive builds the proposed budget.
July–August	Executive and Finance review requests and decide what will be included in the proposed budget.	One of the most important advocacy windows. Encourage the Executive to include early learning investments in the proposed budget.
Late September	Executive releases the Proposed Budget to the County Council.	Review what was included (or omitted). Thank leaders for investments and begin advocating for changes if needed.
October	County Council holds budget presentations, hearings, and receives public testimony.	This is the biggest public advocacy opportunity. Attend hearings, testify, organize supporters, and meet with Councilmembers.
November	Council debates amendments and adopts the final budget.	Final push for amendments. Express support or concerns before the final vote.
January 1	New biennial budget takes effect.	Shift from advocacy to implementation and accountability. Track whether funded programs are being delivered.



Think of the Budget Like Building a House

- Spring (April–June): Draw the blueprint.
- Summer (July–August): Decide what gets built.
- Fall (September–November): County Council reviews and makes changes.
- Winter (January): Construction begins (the budget takes effect).

By the time the house is being painted (October hearings), it's difficult to change the foundation. That's why advocacy before the Executive releases the proposed budget is so valuable.



☀ Upcoming Advocacy Opportunities

- King County Early Learning Coalition Early Learning Candidate Forum with King County & Seattle City Council
July 27th - 2-4pm
- Seattle Library Levy - August 4th ballot



Let's Chat

What city are you in?

Questions / Discussion



Let's Talk About Local!

The BSELS Advocacy Team is in the early stages of expanding our relationship building and advocacy with our county, city, and local school officials across King and Pierce counties - to grow understanding of and support for early learning at all levels in our communities.



Next Month

- Primary Election Update
- Diving into our largest cities
- Local advocacy opportunities

Thank you!

