

TESTIMONY PROVIDED TO: House Education Committee
FROM: Kate Rogers, AOE Early Learning Program Manager
TOPIC: [Draft 8.1- S.257 4.5.2018](#) – Section 10
DATE: April 10, 2018

Overview

The current draft of S.257 removes language related to universal prekindergarten that was proposed by AOE and AHS, debated and modified before being passed by the Senate. Draft 8.1 requires AOE and AHS provide a report to the General Assembly by December 1, 2018.

On or before December 1, 2018, the Agency of Education and the Agency of Human Services shall provide a report to the General Assembly on the costs, benefits, and feasibility of replacing prekindergarten education with a system that provides kindergarten education for children who are four or five years of age, and child care services for children who are age zero through age three.

AOE Position

I am in agreement with Dr. Fowler’s testimony and AOE’s position about this version of S.257, however as the early learning program manager my team will be tasked with completing this report should the legislature pass it and as a result I have a few clarifying questions for the committee.

- 1) Is the intent for the AOE to provide a report on or before Dec 1, 2018 that will be based on convening a designated stakeholder group to gather necessary research and evidence to inform the report?
- 2) Can you clarify what “childcare services for children age zero through age three” means? Are childcare services for children 0 through 3 under AOE or AHS/CDD?
 - a) What sources of funds should be considered for funding this work? Ed Fund? AHS dollars? State general funds?
 - b) What are the parameters for care- is this full time or partially covered care?
- 3) What is the legislature’s intention regarding the mixed delivery system- it appears you anticipate all kindergarten (4s and 5s) to be provided by public schools? Is this correct?
- 4) From this language, we assume that your expectation is that kindergarten for 4s and 5s would be of the same length of time- is that correct?
- 5) Which costs should we include in the report? Should this include transportation, staffing, building renovation/construction, etc.?
- 6) Would the legislature like information related to the disruption to special education services that would occur by dividing 3s and 4s in this plan? Potential costs related to performing all assessments for 3s that likely qualify for special education services but will not be students at school.
- 7) Should the report address costs to educators who may need to pursue new licenses to teach younger children than they currently serve?
- 8) Should the report address implications related to federal funding? For example, would this alter how McKinney Vento dollars may be distributed.