

REFERENCE TITLE: appropriation; early childhood; scholarships

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-fifth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2022

SB 1610

Introduced by
Senator Gabaldon

AN ACT

APPROPRIATING MONIES TO THE ARIZONA EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND HEALTH BOARD.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Appropriations; Arizona early childhood
3 development and health board; quality first
4 scholarships; reports; fiscal years 2022-2023,
5 2023-2024 and 2024-2025

6 A. The following sums are appropriated in the following fiscal
7 years from the state general fund to the Arizona early childhood
8 development and health board to provide quality first scholarships for
9 eligible families for their child or children ages birth to five years to
10 attend a child care or preschool setting that meets or exceeds the
11 standards of the quality first program:

- 12 1. \$5,000,000 in fiscal year 2022-2023.
- 13 2. \$7,500,000 in fiscal year 2023-2024.
- 14 3. \$10,000,000 in fiscal year 2024-2025.

15 B. The board shall prioritize the award of quality first
16 scholarships to families who meet all of the following:

- 17 1. Have an income of two hundred percent or less of the federal
18 poverty level.
- 19 2. Have children ages birth to five years who are enrolled with
20 child care or preschool providers that entered the quality first program
21 after July 1, 2021.
- 22 3. Do not receive quality first scholarships through any other
23 funding source.

24 C. If monies remain after awarding scholarships pursuant to
25 subsection B of this section, the board may award scholarships to families
26 that meet all of the following:

- 27 1. Have an income of two hundred percent or less of the federal
28 poverty level.
- 29 2. Have children ages birth to five years who are enrolled with
30 other quality first programs that meet or exceed quality standards.

31 3. Do not receive child care assistance under section 46-803,
32 Arizona Revised Statutes.

33 D. On or before September 1 in years 2023, 2024 and 2025, the board
34 shall submit to the joint legislative budget committee a report describing
35 the total number of children ages birth to five years who received access
36 to early learning programs through this act during the preceding fiscal
37 year.