



Washington State Department of Early Learning

ECEAP

Reminders and Links

March 2016

ECEAP Outcomes

The newly released [2014-15 ECEAP Outcomes Report](#) highlights the work that you do every day on behalf of children and families! This year, DEL added data on the kindergarten readiness skills of ECEAP four-year-olds. At the end of one year of ECEAP, the percentage of children with kindergarten entry skills increases significantly. For children with two years of ECEAP, the results are remarkably higher. Congratulations to you all for this tremendous success!

ECEAP Caseload Forecast

The February ECEAP caseload forecast is now available [here](#). The technical workgroup for this forecast, made up of DEL, Office of Financial Management and legislative staff, recently changed some of the calculations behind this forecast:

- Based on a literature review and states implementing universal preschool, we assume that the families of 80 percent of eligible four-year-olds and 57 percent of eligible three-year-olds will choose to enroll in ECEAP.
- Based on the 2014-15 Head Start Program Information Reports (PIRs), we now count all Head Start children as ECEAP-eligible. Less than ten percent of children in Head Start were from families above the federal poverty level.
- We updated estimates of children on IEPs who would likely participate in ECEAP.

DEL needs to add 7,377 ECEAP slots by fall 2020 to reach entitlement. This is about 3,000 fewer than previously estimated. The workgroup will periodically revisit these assumptions as we get closer to entitlement.

ECEAP Flyer – **NEW!**

A new ECEAP flyer for reaching out to eligible families is available [here](#). Contractors can download the flyer, type your contact information in the textbox under “Questions” on the bottom left, and print the flyer. This flyer is designed to be easy to understand for families who are not familiar with ECEAP. DEL will translate this flyer into several languages during March.

Important Dates

April 1: ELMS will be ready to begin entering classes and children for the 2016-17 school year. “Paper” child applications will be available to download.

By April 15: Sites that had ECEAP last school year must rate a Level 4 or 5 in Early Achievers.

By May 15: Submit 2016-17 Service Area Agreements to DEL.

- [Sample Service Area Agreement](#)
- [Service Area Agreement Guidance Document](#)

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DEL Standards Alignment

DEL is in the process of creating a single set of standards for child care licensing, Early Achievers, and ECEAP as required by the 2015 Early Start Act. In November and December, state Early Learning Coalitions hosted 22 community input meetings. More than 650 early learning educators representing different services, programs and organizations provided DEL with their valuable input. Click [here](#) to learn more about the standards alignment process and the community input or contact Luba Bezbordnikova, DEL Assistant Director for the Early Start Act, at luba.bezbordnikova@del.wa.gov.

ECEAP Self-Assessment

The [ECEAP 2015-16 Self-Assessment](#) is live on the DEL website. Due on June 15, the self-assessment reviews your compliance with requirements in the current ECEAP contract and Performance Standards. Self-assessment is one component of an ongoing cycle of continuous quality improvement. ECEAP Performance Standard A-8 requires all contractors to include ECEAP staff and parents in this annual assessment and document the results on this form.

Strengthening Families Grant Opportunity

DEL is soliciting grant applications from community organizations whose work promotes protective factors among families and communities. Tribal organization, non-profits, local governments, public and private schools that are engaged in child abuse prevention are encouraged to submit letters of interest by March 11, 2016. Learn more [here](#).

ECEAP Background Checks

Beginning approximately July 1, 2016, ECEAP staff who have contact with children will be required to obtain “portable background checks” through DEL using the MERIT system. Those of you working in licensed child care are already using this method. The Early Start Act required DEL to file the rules for ECEAP background checks by January 1, however MERIT is not yet ready to accept staff from sites without a child care license. Please watch this newsletter for detailed instructions once MERIT is ready.

Blue Ribbon Commission on Children and Families

Governor Inslee signed [Executive Order 16-03](#) establishing a Blue Ribbon Commission to explore the creation of a Children and Family Department in Washington State government. DEL will participate on the commission that is tasked with sending the Legislature recommendations for organizational structure, cost estimates, and measurable benchmarks for assessing the effectiveness of the new department.

Washington Reading Corps

Early learning centers can apply for AmeriCorps volunteers to support pre-reading in your classrooms. The application window opens each March. Learn more on their [website](#). To be notified when the application releases for the 2016-17 program year, click [here](#).

ECEAP Parent Night

ESD 123 hosted their first ECEAP parent night of the year on January 21 with 310 participants, not including staff, sharing in this fabulous night. ESD 123 provided dinner and child care while parents connected with several community partners and discussed health tips, Parent Advisory Council, Health Advisory Council, the Families Moving Forward education series, and volunteer opportunities.

ELMS Tips

- Edit a Child's Name – If there is a typo in ELMS or you learn their legal name, you can always correct a child's name in ELMS:
 - For children who only have a prescreen, click "Create Application" and change the child's name there.
 - For children with an application, but not yet enrolled, change the child's name on their application.
 - For enrolled children, change it on the Household page of Child/Family Updates. You sometimes have to save then leave the page, then the name change will apply everywhere in the child's ELMS record.
- Definitions – Do you know that ELMS has definitions and instructions embedded throughout? Anywhere you see a dotted underline in ELMS, you can hover and click. Then you'll see a popup with more information. For example:
 - On the first page of any child's Application in ELMS, you can see the definition of foster care, Family Assessment Response (FAR), or a child-only TANF cash grant.
 - On the Health Info page of the Application, you can learn details about medical or dental homes, well-child (EPSDT exam), or the meanings of each immunization status.
- ELMS Support – If you experience a difficulty with ELMS or have suggestions for enhancing ELMS, please email elms@del.wa.gov.

Teaching Strategies GOLD™

- Interrater Reliability – Most videos needed to complete interrater reliability certification are fixed. The ones that cannot be fixed will be replaced by observation notes. Teachers may resume IRR testing on March 1.
- GOLD™ Support:
 - For all issues related to ECEAP or the ELMS to GOLD™ data feed, email del.wa@teachingstrategies.com.
 - For generic GOLD™ assistance only, such as help with your login, you may use the email above or call 1-866-736-5913 between 4:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Pacific Time.
- Using Observations – Reflecting on child observations allows you to identify trends, adapt practices, and plan individualized curriculum experiences. To do this:
 1. Log into GOLD™ with your user name.
 2. Open the Documentation tab.
 3. Select "View Documentation" to see observations entered for each child.
 4. Select "Documentation by Objective/Dimension" to see the number of observations entered for a class.
 5. Select "Documentation Report" to see the number of observations entered by program, site, class, teacher and children.
- Funding Source – ECEAP has been automatically marked as Funding Source for all ECEAP children behind the scenes, for all children who are in the ELMS to GOLD data feed. Beginning March 1, the Funding Source will display under "Manage Children." All along, you've been able to accurately run reports by Funding Source.

ESD 113 Assistant Superintendent of Early Learning

ESD 113 is looking to hire a qualified individual to lead their Head Start/ECEAP Program, which serves 535 Head Start and 266 ECEAP children throughout Thurston, Mason and Grays Harbor Counties. For more information, click [here](#).

Training Opportunities

Two-day Creative Curriculum® Implementation training for Coaches

This training is free and open to all Early Achievers Coaches. Teachers and Directors will be accepted on a space available basis. Bring the Creative Curriculum Volumes 1-5 from curriculum kits.

- March 3 to 4, 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- At the Landing at Northcut, 5001 25th Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98105
- Registration is now closed for this training.

Webinar on Dual Language Learners

This webinar, “More than Songs and Sombreros: Incorporating an Emphasis on Dual Language Learners in Your Program,” emphasizes content and evidence-based practices for dual language learners.

- March 29, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Register [here](#).

Teaching Strategies GOLD™ Webinars coming in April

ECEAP Administrators and Teachers will have the opportunity to participate in these interactive webinars during April. See the April *ECEAP Reminders and Links* for dates and registration information.

Online Teaching Strategies GOLD® Basic course

Contractor staff with a *GOLD™* username can access this free, self-paced course online. In the four interactive modules, you can type in reflections, view video clips, and complete short activities and quizzes. A certification of completion is available when all four modules are completed. To access this course:

- Sign in [here](#).
- Go to Dashboard>Professional Development>Courses
- Select *Teaching Strategies GOLD™* Basic

Nutrition and cooking classes in King County

Learn to plan, shop, save and cook in a series of four, two-hour classes include cooking, tasting, and fun activities. This training is free and open to low-income participants.

- 1) For the schedule, click [here](#).
- 2) Register by emailing GetHealthy@kingcounty.gov.

Resources

Early Education

ECEAP Shows Above-average Rates of Kindergarten Readiness

This [Seattle Times article](#) highlights the [ECEAP Outcomes Report](#), showing that when four-year-olds in ECEAP were evaluated in the fall of 2014, only 30 percent had early literacy skills showing they were ready for kindergarten. But by the end of their preschool year, 88 percent had those skills.

Executive Function Skills

Executive function skills help us plan, focus attention, switch gears, and juggle multiple tasks. This [working paper](#) from the National Scientific Council on the Developing Child explains how these lifelong skills develop, what can disrupt their development, and how supporting them pays off in school and life.

Expulsion and Suspension Prevention Webinar Series

The Administration for Children and Families recently hosted a [webinar series](#) on preventing expulsion of children with challenging behaviors. The series featured key experts on different aspects of the issue including policy, research and data, and prevention/intervention.

Preventing Bias, Suspensions and Expulsions in Early Childhood Settings

The Technical Assistance Center on Social Emotional Intervention (TACSEI) released this [75 minute recorded webinar](#) and [supporting materials](#) that discuss methods to ensure that all children, regardless of behavioral challenges, are supported without the use of expulsion or suspension.

Supporting School Readiness

This [resource](#) from the National Center on Quality Teaching and Learning uses a house to represent four integral elements of quality teaching and learning:

- Engaging every day interactions with children (the foundation)
- Choosing and implementing a strong curriculum (first pillar)
- Assessing children's skills regularly (second pillar)
- Individualized teaching (the roof).

These elements, when connected with one another, form a single structure that fosters children's learning and development.

Family Engagement

Boosting the Role of Parents of English Learners

This [article](#) focuses on the importance of engaging families of preschool English Language Learners. It highlights a California program that works with families on literacy and math skills for their preschoolers. It also cites several studies showing gaps in achievement for students who are learning English and discusses how family engagement is key to helping close those gaps.

Earned Income Tax Credit Can Help Rural Families

US Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack recent [blogged](#) on the importance of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). The average amount received by families last year was more than \$2,400. Eligibility depends on several factors including income and family size. Learn more [here](#).