

Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC)

Early Achievers Review Work Group

Meeting Minutes

Friday, September 25 from 9:00am to 1:00pm

Early Start Act (ESA) Overview

- Luba Bezborodnikova provided an overview of the Context and implications of the ESA and the role of Early Achievers Review Subcommittee.

Early Start Act Annual Progress Report

- Luba provided an overview of the report requirements, data gap justifications and narratives for each subsection.
 - [Annual Report ESA 2015](#)

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information about ESA deadlines, deliverables and supports can be found at http://www.del.wa.gov/government/EarlyStartAct/Default.aspx • At what points will DEL reach out to child care providers and ask them about barriers? What are the ways to develop mechanisms for providing personal experience feedback? In addition to the idea of providing space in MERIT (Managed Education and Registry Information Tool), other avenues discussed were the market rate survey, work force survey, input from town halls, and from scholarship recipients. • Change language from “provider” to “teacher/early learning educator”. This provides an opportunity for us to create a new language for the system but help future professionals. • Ask for demographic data in MERIT. Can require to answer, but make “choose not to provide” as an answer. Also provide information about why asking and what will be the benefit. • The University of Washington is hiring more raters now. Please encourage potential candidates to apply online at the UW Hires website.
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an accreditation task force. • Provide demographics of Early Achievers raters, coaches and technical assistance providers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Child Care Quality & Early Learning (CQEL) Data Collection Team Fact Sheet

Early Achievers Rerate Policy Update

- Rachael Brown-Kendall shared the universal rerate policy draft proposal. It will allow all providers to request a rerate to meet ESA deadline, not just those who meet a specific margin/threshold. It will be more streamlined. There will be 3 rerate options. Everyone will have an opportunity for one free rerate. There is no timeline for rerate request to allow more flexibility.

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The cost of rerating is significant, so this option is really meant as a back-up. Less than 2% of providers have to use this option. It might be helpful to include the true cost of re-rating, so providers feel better about the portion they pay.
Next Steps	Send input on the draft Early Achievers Universal Rerate Policy to Rachael Brown-Kendall (rachael.brown-kendal@del.wa.gov) by COB this Monday (9/28/15) . Please use track changes to note your edits and comments, and save the document with

	<p>your initials at the end. The type of feedback we are looking for includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How to communicate the policy clearly and in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner.• Whether any aspects of the policy may produce barriers for Early Achievers participants who wish to apply for a re-rating.
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Participants: Jennifer Jennings-Shaffer, Dee Hirsch, Lois Martin, Amy Kocher, Luba Bezborodnikova, Angela Abrams, Sue Rose, Rachael Brown-Kendall, Karen Sampson, Caroline Shelton, Caitlin Jensen, Evette Jasper, Deanna Steward, Nicole Rose