

## **Early Start Act Projects, 2015**

### ELAC Early Achievers Review Subcommittee

*by October, 2015*

1. DEL shall consult with the Early Achievers Review Subcommittee on all substantial policy changes to the Early Achievers.
2. ELC shall convene an Early Achievers Review Subcommittee to provide feedback and guidance on strategies to improve the quality of instruction and environment for early learning and provide input and recommendations on the implementation and refinement of the Early Achievers. The review conducted by the subcommittee shall be a part of the annual progress report.

### ECEAP providers Early Achievers mandates (existing & new)

*by October, 2015*

1. Existing ECEAP providers must complete the following requirements to be eligible to receive state-funded support under ECEAP: enroll in the Early Achievers by October 1, 2015
2. Effective October 1, 2015, a new ECEAP provider must complete the Early Achievers requirements to be eligible to receive state-funded support under ECEAP

### Early Achievers, Single Source of Information for Parents and Caregivers

*by November 2015*

1. develop a single source of Early Achievers information for parents and caregivers, including EA rating level, licensing history, and other indicators of quality and safety
2. publish to DEL site, or offer a link on its web site to, the following information:
  - o EA rating levels 1-5 for all child care programs that receive state subsidy, ECEAP, and HS
  - o New EA ratings within thirty days after a program becomes licensed or certified, or receives a rating
3. the EA rating levels shall be published in a manner that is easily accessible to parents and caregivers and takes into account the linguistic needs of parents and caregivers
4. publish EA rating levels for child care programs that do not receive state subsidy but have voluntarily joined the EA
5. EA participants who have published rating levels on the DEL's web site or on a link on the web site may include a brief description of their program, contingent upon the review and approval by DEL, as determined by established marketing standards

### Pathway for licensed or certified child care centers and homes to administer ECEAP

*by November, 2015*

1. Develop a pathway for licensed or certified child care centers and homes to administer ECEAP.
2. The pathway shall include an accommodation for these providers to rate at a level 4 or 5 in Early Achievers according to the timelines and standards.

Early Achievers Extension Protocol (annual report)

*by December, 2015*

In collaboration with tribal governments, community and statewide partners, and the ELAC EA Subcommittee develop a protocol for granting EA participants an extension in meeting rating level requirement timelines outlined for the WCCC and ECEAP

- may grant extensions only under exceptional circumstances, such as when EA participants experience an unexpected life circumstance
- Extensions shall not exceed six months, and EA participants are only eligible for one extension
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Assess Demand for Full-Day Programming for ECEAP Providers (annual report)

*by December, 2015*

1. collect data to determine the demand for full-day programming for ECEAP providers.
2. analyze this demand by geographic region

Provide Recommendations on Child Attendance Policies, WCCC and ECEAP

*By December 1, 2015*

The recommendations shall include the following:

1. Allowable periods of child absences
2. Required contact with parents or caregivers to discuss child absences and encourage regular program attendance
3. A de-enrollment procedure when allowable child absences are exceeded.

Annual Report

*by December, 2015*

In collaboration with CCA, and the ELAC Early Achievers Review Subcommittee develop and submit a progress report to the governor and the legislature.

ECEAP Staff Background Check

*by January 2016*

adopt rules requiring ECEAP employees who have access to children to submit to a fingerprint background check.