



2017-18

ECEAP Caseload Forecast Report

November 2017



Summary

The Washington State Caseload Forecast Council (CFC) is required by [RCW 43.88C](#) to forecast the number of children who are eligible to participate in the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) as defined in [RCW 43.215.405\(5\)\(a\)](#). This report is provided by the Department of Early Learning (DEL) to describe the November 2017 ECEAP caseload forecast.

By the 2022-23 school year, all eligible children shall be entitled to enroll in ECEAP, per [RCW 43.215.456 \(5\)](#). The entitlement year was originally set as 2017-18 and was extended to 2020-21, then most recently to 2022-23 during the 2017 legislative session.

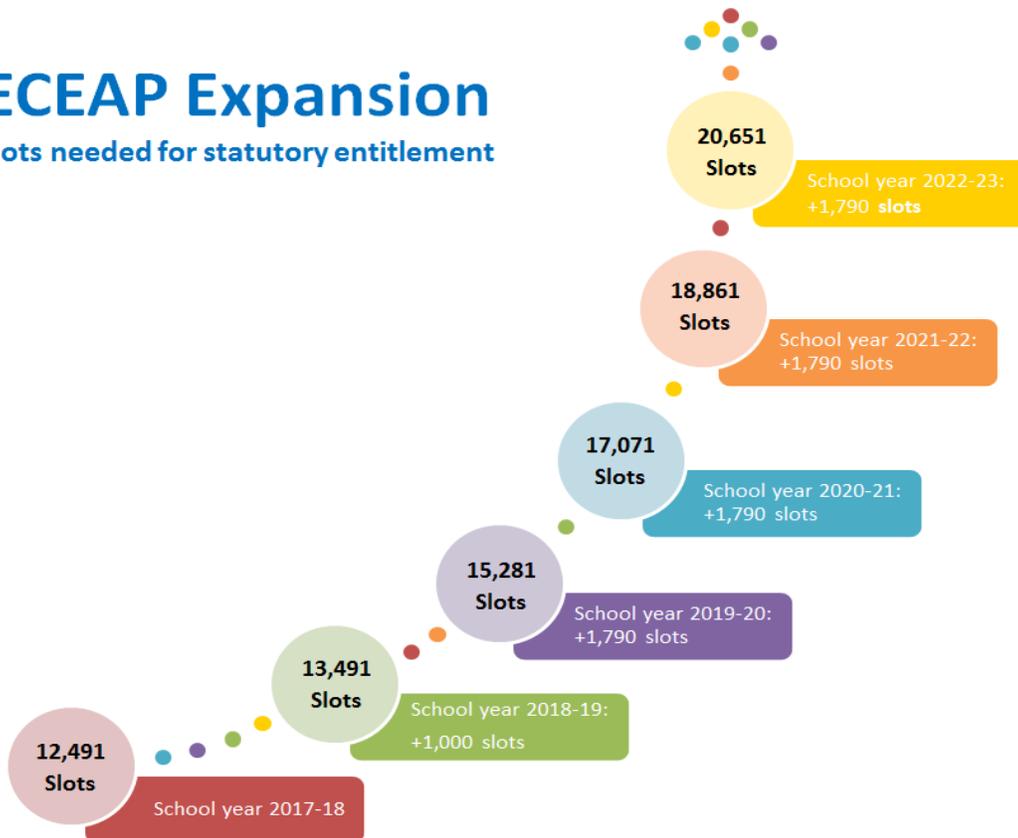
Pursuant to this expansion toward entitlement, the Legislature allocated funding for 5,100 additional slots for ECEAP children between 2013 and the coming 2018-19 school year. In 2017-18, ECEAP has 12,491 enrollment slots. In 2018-19, there will be 13,491.

In 2017-18, based on the November 2017 CFC forecast:

- There are 21,625 children eligible for ECEAP who are not served by ECEAP or Head Start.
- Of these, 6,842 would likely participate if space were available.
- We are serving 51 percent of eligible children and 77 percent of children likely to participate.
- In addition to the 1,000 slots allocated for 2018-19, we will need 7,160 more slots by 2022-23 to serve all eligible children likely to participate. DEL recommends a gradual ramp-up, as shown in the table below, to support a solid foundation for program quality.

ECEAP Expansion

Slots needed for statutory entitlement



Description of ECEAP

ECEAP is Washington's state-funded pre-kindergarten program that prepares some of the State's most vulnerable 3-year-old and four-year-old children for success in school and in life. DEL oversees the program which, since 1985, has focused on the well-being of the whole child by providing comprehensive nutrition, health, education and family support services to Washington's most at-risk children. To be eligible for ECEAP, children must be 3-years-old or 4-years-old August 31 of the school year, not simultaneously enrolled in Head Start, and meet one of these requirements:

-  Qualified by their school district for special education services under [RCW 28A.155.020](#).
-  Receiving Child Protective Services under [RCW 26.44.020\(3\)](#) or Family Assessment Response Services under [RCW 26.44.260](#).
-  From a family with income at or below 110 percent of the federal poverty guidelines established by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In 2017, this is \$26,060 for a family of four. This category includes all children in foster care and all families receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) cash grants.
-  From a family that exceeds income requirements, but is impacted by specific risk factors that are linked by research to school performance (for example, child has a parent who is incarcerated or impacted by substance abuse). No more than 10 percent of ECEAP children can be in this "over-income" category, and most children enrolled under this provision are from families under 130 percent of federal poverty guidelines.

Once eligibility is established, children are prioritized for enrollment in the available ECEAP slots using a weighted statewide priority point system.

Methodology

To estimate the population of children eligible for ECEAP who are not served by Head Start and would likely participate if space were available, the CFC calculates the number of 3-year-olds and 4-year-olds in the state at or below 110 percent of federal poverty level, then discounts a percentage in future years to account for minimum wage increases. They add the estimated number of children on Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) who are above the income threshold. From that total, the CFC subtracts the children served by Head Start, then adds 10 percent for children who are not income-eligible but have specific developmental or environmental risk factors. This determines the estimated total number of children eligible for ECEAP, from which they calculate the number whose families are likely to choose to participate.

The CFC uses the following data sources and assumptions:

-  The base population of 90,471 3-year-olds and 91,784 4-year-olds in 2017-18 is from the Washington State Office of Financial Management (OFM) Population Forecast, November 2016.

-  An estimated 20.4 percent of each of these age cohorts is at or below 110 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) and therefore eligible for ECEAP. This is based on the American Community Survey, Combined 2013-15. This factor is updated each year in the February forecast.
-  Beginning with the November 2017 ECEAP forecast, the CFC also estimates the percentage of families that will no longer be income-eligible based on the planned increases to the state [minimum wage](#). The minimum wage rose to \$11.00 in 2017 and will increase annually over the next three years: \$11.50 in 2018, \$12.00 in 2019, and \$13.50 in 2020. Starting Jan. 1, 2021, minimum wage increases will be tied to the rate of inflation. The CFC estimates that 2.1 percent of families that previously would have been eligible for ECEAP were no longer eligible in fall of 2017 because of the minimum wage increase.
-  An additional 1.72 percent of 3-year-olds and 2.89 percent of 4-year-olds are on IEPs and over 110 percent of the FPL and therefore eligible for ECEAP. This is based on the total number of each age group on IEPs from the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction and the proportion of children on IEPs who are above 110 percent FPL currently in ECEAP.
-  In addition to children who are eligible by income or IEP status, another 10 percent of 3-year-olds and 4-year-olds who are above 110 percent of the FPL are eligible based on their developmental or environmental risk factors.
-  In February 2017, the CFC changed the estimate of the number of eligible 4-year-olds who are in families who would choose to participate if ECEAP slots were available (the uptake rate) from 77 percent to 82.5 percent, based on the uptake rate for public kindergarten in Washington. The CFC estimates 51 percent of eligible 3-year-olds would participate based on literature review of participation in states and countries with universal prekindergarten programs. The CFC Technical Workgroup revisits estimates of uptakes rates periodically as we move toward full ECEAP entitlement.
-  Head Start slot counts and age distributions are retrieved from the 2016-17 Program Information Reports from Head Start grantees to the federal Office of Head Start. Newly in November 2017 and based on data from Migrant/Seasonal Head Start (MSHS) grantees who also provide Region X Head Start and ECEAP about children who are in more than one program, we discount 26 percent of the MSHS slots when assuming the number of children served by Head Start.

Estimates of ECEAP Caseload

This chart assumes 1,790 new ECEAP slots each year in the next two biennia, SFY20 through SFY23.

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Total ECEAP-eligible 3- and 4-year olds	44,070	44,430	44,973	45,124	45,636	46,102
Served by ECEAP¹	12,491	13,491	15,281 ¹	17,071 ¹	18,861 ¹	20,651 ¹
Served by Head Start²	9,953	9,953	9,953	9,953	9,953	9,953
Total ECEAP-eligible served by ECEAP or Head Start¹	22,444	23,444	25,234	27,024	28,814	30,604
Percent of ECEAP-eligible served by ECEAP or Head Start¹	51%	53%	56%	60%	63%	66%
Percent of ECEAP-eligible, likely to participate, served by ECEAP or Head Start^{1,3}	77%	80%	85%	90%	95%	100%
Unserved, ECEAP-eligible¹	21,625	21,986	22,529	22,680	23,191	23,658
Unserved, ECEAP-eligible, likely to participate^{1,3}	6,842	6,032	4,618	2,925	1,471	0

¹ Based on proposed ECEAP slot ramp up in chart on page 2

² The Head Start count is updated annually. Between November 2016 and November 2017, this count decreased by 1,372 due to transfer of Head Start slots from preschool age to Early Head Start as well as new data regarding duplicate counts of MSHS and other program categories.

³ Likely to participate is based on the CFC assumption that 51% of eligible 3-year-olds and 82.5% of eligible 4-year-olds will participate. Parents may choose other early learning services or choose to keep children home with them.