

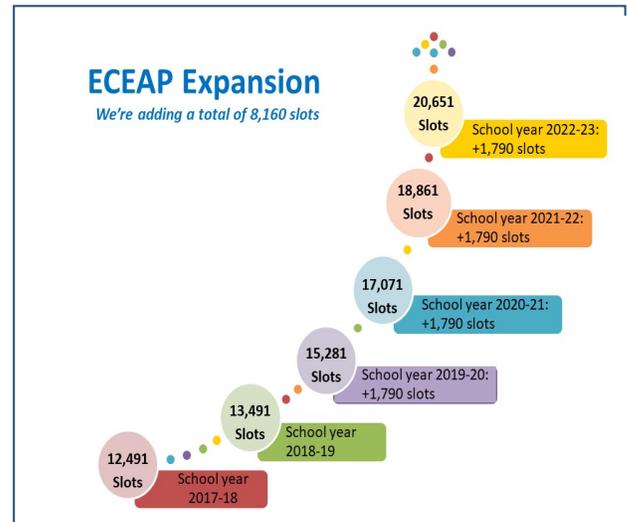
# Washington State's Preschool Program Is Expanding

## For Eligible 3- and 4-Year-Olds

### Who is eligible?

Washington state's preschool program, the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) provides services at no cost to:

- 3- and 4-year-old children who have:
  - Family income up to 110 percent of the federal poverty level (up to \$27,610 per year for a family of four).
- Or
  - Developmental delay, disability or other special needs.
- Or
  - Foster care, homelessness, family violence, chemical dependency, or similar challenges.



### What is happening?

ECEAP is expanding with two goals:

- To serve *all eligible* 3- and 4-year-olds by the 2022–2023 school year.
- To ensure that many more children are ready for kindergarten, and that race and income do not predict success.

### What does this mean for children and families?

- More families will have options for a preschool program that:
  - Is nearby.
  - Uses a model that suits them (half-day, full-day, extended-day).
  - Serves the family's language and culture.
  - Provides family support.
  - Helps them access medical/dental care and social services.
- More children can attend a high-quality preschool where they will:
  - Learn skills for beginning reading, math and science.
  - Learn to manage their feelings, get along with others, and thrive in a classroom.
  - Get good nutrition and support for good health.

### How will expansion take place?

The state Department of Early Learning (DEL) has created an ECEAP Expansion Plan to:

- Grow the number of spaces for children each year (see graphic).
- Engage and prepare people, nonprofits and schools statewide who want to offer or improve their ECEAP program.
- Grow the teaching staff needed.
- Help identify new and renovated facilities for the programs.

### What happens next?

Here are a few tasks DEL is working on:

- Learn how many families want Part-Day vs. Full-Day vs. Extended Day services.
- Find more providers to offer ECEAP and help them prepare.
- Recruit more teachers where we need them.
- Develop ways expand ECEAP in more communities across the state.

**For more information:** [ECEAP expansion](#) (Go to the blue area and click on "ECEAP expansion").

General ECEAP information [for families](#).