



Washington State Department of Early Learning

ECEAP

Reminders and Links

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Important Dates

By August 15: Set up all sites and classes in ELMS for the 2017-18 year.

August 15: Teaching Strategies Gold Summer Checkpoint

August 29: ECEAP Contracts Webinar

August 31: Operating Budget Webinar

October 4-5: ECEAP Director’s Meeting

**Want to know more?
Follow us here:**

[DEL ECEAP Website](#)

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[DEL Blog](#)

[DEL Twitter](#)

Updates

Would you like to know about the recent changes to our ECEAP Contract?

We are offering a free webinar on Aug 29, 2017 from 12-1:30pm to go over the 2017-18 ECEAP contract. You will have the opportunity to ask questions and get firsthand information from our DEL staff. Please sign up for this webinar [here](#).

An Operating Budget Webinar will be held on August 31st from 11am-noon. You can register for this webinar [here](#).

ECEAP Expansion Slot Awards

After a very long budget year, we are excited to announce that more at-risk children and families will have access to high-quality preschool, health services coordination, and family support this fall as a result of new funding for the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP). The Legislature invested \$7,710,000 to create spaces for 800 more children for the 2017-18 school year. This funding will provide new “slots” of part-day services for 280 children, full-school day services for 380 children, and extended-day services for 40 children. In total, ECEAP will serve 12,491 children in 2017-18.

As we outlined in a recent blog post which you can read [here](#), ECEAP is Washington’s pre-kindergarten program that prepares 3- and 4-year-old children for success in school and in life. The Department of Early Learning oversees the program which is offered in more than 350 locations across the state. A 2014 [evaluation](#) by the Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP) found that children who participated in ECEAP as preschoolers had significantly higher math and reading test scores in the third, fourth, and fifth grades than similar children who did not participate.

In a competitive bid process held earlier this year, DEL received applications to serve 1,900 ECEAP children. We took into account community need and quality of application to award the 800 expansion slots. The Legislature also funded 1,000 more slots for children beginning in the 2018-19 school year and recommitted to serving all eligible children whose families are interested by 2022.

DEL Standards Alignment - Early Achievers and ECEAP Progression

As part of the Department of Early Learning (DEL)’s standards alignment process, which involves creating a progression of standards between licensed child care, Early Achievers and ECEAP, the Early Learning Regional Coalitions are hosting community engagement meetings in locations across the state. We are looking for input from a diverse group of early learning providers, including but not limited to current ECEAP providers and Early Achievers providers who have knowledge and interest in offering ECEAP. Input on proposed standards can be provided in two ways:

In person:

The next session is focused on Professional Development and Program Administration and Oversight. This meeting will focus on a select number of ECEAP revisions to standards in these categories. Information you provide will help inform and improve the revised standards.

Meetings will take place across the state at the following times and locations:

- **Voices of Tomorrow**, August 19 2017, 11:00am - 2:00pm (lunch provided), Seattle WA 98178, *Somali provider meeting. RSVP to Iftin Hagimohamed, ihagimohamed@tomorrowvoices.org

- **Investing in Children**; Coalition Central, August 24 2017, 12:00pm - 3:00pm (lunch provided), Yakima Valley Community Foundation Offices*Hispanic provider meeting. RSVP to Lindsay Boswell, lindsayb@yakimavalleycf.org
- **Tribal Providers** , August 30 2017, 4:00pm - 7:00pm (dinner provided), Heritage University, *Tribal provider meeting. RSVP to Tleena Ives, Tleena.Ives@del.wa.gov
- **Southwest Early Learning Coalition**, September 7 2017, 9:30am - 12:30pm (9am breakfast), ESD 112 – Conference Center. RSVP to Debbie Ham, debbie.ham@selfwa.org.
- **Inland Northeast Early Learning Alliance**, September 13 2017, 1:00pm - 4pm (12:30pm lunch), Spokane, WA. RSVP to Jill Johnson, jillj@community-minded.org
- **SOAR**, Location and Date TBD (mid-September). RSVP to Paula Steinke, paula@childrenandyouth.org

Comment Page:

Visit the [Early Achievers-ECEAP- Alignment website](#) to find the proposed standards in draft form. You will see the current proposed WAC, Early Achievers, and ECEAP standards aligned in one document. Please give us your comments and suggestions!

Wa Compass

What is WA Compass?

- WA Compass is a centralized monitoring database where DEL employees can document and monitor activities related to providers and contractors
- WA Compass provides supports and resources for early learning professionals
 - ECEAP contractors will have a landing page where they access information about:
 - Early Achievers
 - Licensing
 - ECEAP
- WA Compass guides families in their search for licensed, quality child care (replaces Child Care Check)
- WA Compass helps families and the public navigate to important information and points them in the right direction for their children’s success in school and life

Wa Compass will replace WELS. It will not replace MERIT or ELMS but information will feed into Wa Compass from MERIT and ELMS.

At this time, the Licensing applications and WELS replacement are being built and deployed. Watch for information about how this will help you with your program monitoring efforts.

ECEAP Enrollment Maintenance

Recruitment for ECEAP occurs year-round, but Contractors intensify it beginning in April of each year in order to enroll children before classes start. ECEAP performance standards allow a 30-day grace period - classes must be full by the 30th day of class. However, it is better for children if they start on the first day, and then you have the next 30 days to refill slots if children have moved or are otherwise unavailable.

Legislative staff and the state Caseload Forecast Council closely watch ECEAP enrollment and inform legislators who decide how many new slots to fund. Keeping ECEAP full demonstrates community need and makes sure that the most vulnerable children are prepared for kindergarten.

In the 2017-18 school year, DEL will monitor enrollment closely and move any slots that are vacant for longer than 30 days. We will reassign these slots to contractors who applied for expansion but weren't yet awarded slots. We will not have the additional 30-day technical assistance period that we've had in recent years. Please talk to your DEL Pre-K Specialist early if you are having trouble filling slots and need more ideas.

ECEAP Expansion Updates

Think Tank Updates

On July 19, Think Tank members gathered again to focus on:

- Giving feedback on the draft Expansion Plan elements
- Small group discussion on expansion readiness pathways for:
 - Child care centers
 - Family home child care providers
 - Rural and remote areas
 - School districts

Future work includes:

- Finalizing expansion plans for Year 1, and a multi-year plan.
- Identifying representatives to work in smaller groups on expansion readiness
- Moving forward with parent leadership and engagement in the Think Tank and expansion work

Contracting Work Group Updates:

On July 19, Contracting Work Group members worked on:

- Exploring further statewide, regional, and local functions and capacities.
- Discussing what required and desired capacities contractors and subcontractors ideally have to provide ECEAP.

Both of these discussions will inform what recommendations are given to the Think Tank.

Expansion Documents

As expansion work continues, we will post documents and materials to the ECEAP website. Current links include information on the Advisory Bodies, notes from meetings, and presentation slides. You can find them under the [ECEAP Expansion](#) heading.

Local Planning Areas (LPAs)

Local Planning Area meetings were created by the original WorkFirst legislation to provide community-based forums to coordinate services and activities to help TANF recipients become more stable, prepare for employment, and go to work. There are 26 LPAs across the state. They include representatives from local and state agencies, community and technical colleges, nonprofit organizations, tribes, and other community partners serving those most in need. LPAs meet regularly to build and maintain partnerships and leverage resources. They share information, address challenges for WorkFirst families as they move through the program to employment, and find ways to fill gaps in assistance.

ECEAP Contractors are encouraged to reach out to the LPA in their community to connect and collaborate. Some opportunities may include:

- ECEAP staff attending local LPA meetings.
- ECEAP contractors setting up tables in local Community Service Office office lobbies on a regular basis to educate parents and CSO staff about ECEAP.
- Inviting LPA staff to attend regional Early Learning Coalition meetings.
- Meetings between CSO, social work and WorkFirst specialists who provide case management and ECEAP staff to share information about the services each provides.

Lisa-Brouwer Thompson, ECEAP Director at ESD 123 recently attended an LPA meeting in her community. She shared that the meeting:

- Helped her make vital in-person connections with organizations serving similar families
- Provided a network for her to plug into for family resources and education
- Gave an opportunity to share about ESD 123 and all other ECEAP and Head Start programs in the area

For more information, please contact the LPA lead in your county. Contact information can be found [here](#).

ELMS Updates

- **IMPORTANT** - By August 15, all sites and classes for the new year must be set up in ELMS This is an earlier deadline than previous years, so that there is more time to set up GOLD correctly for the school year. See the three-page instructions: [Starting the New School Year in ELMS](#).
- Summer Classes:
 - By July 31, make sure all Extended Day classes are full and each child has an actual start date in ELMS.
 - ELMS will only allow you to enroll children who will be kindergarten eligible in the fall if they were enrolled in ECEAP in 2016-17 and attended before June 30. New kindergarten eligible children cannot enroll in ECEAP during the summer.
 - Be sure to exit all children who are age-eligible for kindergarten by the date kindergarten starts in your district.
- ELMS Administrators should remove ELMS access from any staff who have left ECEAP.
- For assistance, email elms@del.wa.gov.

Teaching Strategies GOLD® - *MyTeachingStrategies™ is now ready for you to explore!*

Beginning August 16, 2017, your GOLD® login will open to the new *MyTeachingStrategies™* platform. You will see the same features you are familiar with, but with a new, intuitive, user-friendly interface.

Within your GOLD® account, you now have access to a preview version of *MyTeachingStrategies™*. We encourage you to take this opportunity to practice using the features of the upgraded platform, which you can do without affecting any data for the children in your class. To help you get started, you can access the [MyTeachingStrategies™ Preview Guide](#) to help support your exploration of the new user interface.

You can access the *MyTeachingStrategies™* Upgrade Information to find free support, video tutorials, and articles.

- Join a virtual town hall to **explore this new platform, submit questions, and get answers** from Teaching Strategies experts. Register [here](#).

- Watch a video to **explore five ways you and your ECEAP staff can prepare your current GOLD® account for the upgrade to MyTeachingStrategies™** [here](#).
 - Complete any Interrater Reliability (IRR) Certifications that are currently in process. This is important, as any certifications that are in progress will not carry over to new MyTeachingStrategies™ platform.
 - Save any existing weekly planning forms if you want to reference these in the future. For those that used the current GOLDplus functionality to develop weekly plans, that information will carry over. Otherwise, please save weekly plans if you want them.
 - Download and save any historic messages and newsletters that you would like to reference in the future. You will be able to access the new and enhanced messaging interface in the upgraded account.
 - Save printable versions of the Alphabet Knowledge, Number Concepts, and Shapes forms in the MyTeachingStrategies™ support and resources library within the Access area. To access these forms, select Add Documentation in the Access area and select the blue help button in the bottom left corner. Soon these forms will no longer be a component of MyTeachingStrategies™.
 - Download and save PDF versions of any activities within your current activity library that you would like to continue using in the future. The existing activity library will no longer be available. You will now have access to the new enhanced planning features and have access to the *Intentional Teaching Experiences* that are based on the 38 objectives for development and learning that will offer in the moment opportunities for individualizing instruction.
- If you have technical questions about this upgrade, please call Teaching Strategies at 1-866-736-5913.
- Review the MyTeachingStrategies™ FAQs for Administrators to **find answers to many frequently asked questions** from Administrators regarding the MyTeachingStrategies™ upgrade [here](#).

You will receive additional information from Teaching Strategies about the new features that MyTeachingStrategies™ offers. They will provide you with weekly support emails, monthly webinars, embedded video tutorials, and teacher and administrator step-by-step guides to help you navigate this enhanced user experience.

DEL will include additional notices of this new exciting feature in the monthly ECEAP Reminders and Links newsletters.

- **GOLDplus® Digital Curriculum Resources**
 - DEL will continue to purchase the GOLDplus® digital resources for classrooms in ECEAP Contractors that use the *Creative Curriculum®*. This resource helps teachers plan intentional learning experiences that support every child’s development and learning to individualize instruction. You can find more information about GOLDplus® and the enhanced features in MyTeachingStrategies™ [here](#).
 - To ensure these resources are made available to your ECEAP teachers in a timely way, you will need to update ECEAP classroom information in ELMS by the August 15 due date. This will allow these classrooms to have these digital curriculum resources by August 28.
 - For ECEAP Contractors who operate extended day classrooms, these resources are available.

- **Home Language Survey in GOLD®**
 - ECEAP lead teachers need to complete the Home Language Survey online for each ECEAP child® by the checkpoint due date in the Deliverables Calendar. Here are some tips to help you complete this survey in the system:
 - Do not use “N/A” to answer the question “What language do family members use when speaking to the child in the home?”
 - Only use “N/A” to answer questions about what language the child uses when speaking to family members, other children, or teachers if the child is non-verbal.
 - If the child and family only speak English, select 1 – “only English”.

- **TS GOLD® Assistance:**
 - Email del.wa@teachingstrategies.com with *GOLD*® issues or requests for additional portfolios. For quickest response, include the details such as ELMS Child IDs, teacher names, and class names. You may CC elms@del.wa.gov so we can help with follow-up.
 - For simple issues, such as logins and general teacher questions, you can call the dedicated *GOLD*® phone line for ECEAP at 1-844-854-4653.

DEL ECEAP Trainings

ELMS Administrator Training

The Department of Early Learning is sponsoring a training for new ELMS Administrators. This training is only for ELMS Administrators, the ELMS super-users at the ECEAP Contractor Level. DEL will offer this training on two dates:

- August 3, 2017 – 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM, Kent, WA
- September 8, 2017 – 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM, Moses Lake

Please register as soon as possible using this [link](#). DEL needs to determine if there are enough participants for the September 8th date.

Coaching to Fidelity - Fall 2017

This one-day training is free and available to ECEAP Contractors. ECEAP Early Achievers Coaches, Directors, Coordinators, and Managers who support and ensure implementation of the Creative Curriculum are encouraged to register.

- September 28, 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM, ESD 112, Vancouver
- Register [here](#)

ECERS-R Reliability Training Re-Checks

This training is designed for coaches who have already completed a 3-day reliability training in the ECERS-R tool, and need to renew to maintain their current reliability.

Coaches who have taken reliability training and need another day of observation to reach reliability of 85% or higher may also attend.

This training is free to Early Achievers Coaches supporting ECEAP funded classrooms. Participants are responsible to arrange their own travel/accommodations and meals.

- August 21-25, 2017
- King County-location TBD
- Register [here](#).

Early Learning Numeracy Train the Trainer- Training Modules – SAVE THE DATE!

DEL is offering a 3-day training focusing on Numeracy this fall and we hope that you will join us. State WaKIDS data indicates that math skills are the lowest of skills measured by *Teaching Strategies GOLD™* when students enter Kindergarten. DEL and OSPI collaborated to adapt already developed OSPI modules to the early learning community. This training is focused on teaching numeracy concepts to three and four year olds. The goal is to minimize the achievement gap for the children we serve.

Each day of the training will focus on one of three main foundations of mathematics, Counting and Cardinality, Geometry and Algebraic Thinking and Operations. The foundations of mathematics development will be intertwined with ideas from MyTeachingStrategies™, HighScope, High 5 Mathematize and Creative Curriculum®. This training is designed for staff supporting classrooms with curriculum implementation and professional development for classroom teachers. Space is limited. Please watch for registration information in the near future. For now please think about the best staff to send to the trainings listed below. DEL will cover travel for staff who attend a training on the side of the state where they work.

- September 19-21, 2017– Green River Community College, Kent
- September 27- 29, 2017 – Spokane, WA (Community Colleges of Spokane)

Please note that all staff who attends these training days will then be expected to provide training and TA to classroom teaching staff on the training module topics. Attendees will also be placed in an Early Learning Numeracy Professional learning community. This community will meet throughout the year via webinar. This group will dig deeper into numeracy concepts, applications, differentiated instruction and partnering with families. Sharing challenges and successes of mathematizing ECEAP classroom environments. Please register [here](#).

Eastern Early Achievers Institute - Registration Opens in early August

October 19-22, 2017 Spokane, WA

For more information [click here](#).

Creative Curriculum® for Teachers

DEL is sponsoring this two-day introductory training for staff new to the *Creative Curriculum®* with a priority for ECEAP lead teachers in the curriculum pilot study.

- August 28-29, 2017, 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM, Bremerton - Olympic Educational Service District, 105 National Ave. N., Bremerton WA
- September 7-8, 2017, Yakima - Educational Service District 105, Kittitas Room, 33 S 2nd Ave, Yakima, WA
- September 21-22, Spokane – Spokane Community College, Lair Student Center, Building #6, 1810 N Greene St, Spokane, WA
- Register [here](#).

Teaching Strategies GOLD® Online for Teachers

This two-day introductory training is for staff new to Teaching Strategies GOLD® with a priority for new ECEAP lead teachers.

- September 11-12, 2017 from 8:30AM to 4:00 PM in Yakima (ESD 105)
- September 21-22, 2017 from 8:30-4:00PM in Pasco (ESD 123)
- Register [here](#).

Families Moving Forward Training

DEL is sponsoring a 1-day Families Moving Forward Training for all staff that will deliver Families Moving Forward to parents or caregivers of ECEAP children. There are two trainings offered in September:
 September 11, 2017 in Kent, WA
 September 22, 2017 in Spokane, WA
 Please register [here](#).

Other Training Opportunities

Starting Strong Conference, Spokane WA

Don't forget to sign up for the Starting Strong Conference. This year it will be held in Spokane WA August 7-9, 2017. Please open this link <http://www.startingstrong.net> to learn more about the guest speakers and how to register.

Free Harvest for Healthy Kids Curriculum Training

The Washington State Departments of Agriculture and Early Learning are pleased to offer **FREE trainings** workshops on the Harvest for Healthy Kids curriculum to early learning staff.

Each workshop is 9 am – 12:30 pm in the following locations:

- Monday, August 28th in Mount Vernon
- Tuesday, August 29th in Seattle
- Wednesday, August 30th in Vancouver

****Learn more and register for a workshop [HERE](#).****

More than Just Child's Play – Physical Activity in Early Learning Settings

A training focused on the connection between physical activity and learning as well as to the EA assessment tools: CLASS and ERS. Attending participants receive a manual that describes specific teacher-led activities that can be easily implemented in the classroom or in indoor or outdoor play areas.

Training Session will be held at: Spokane Regional Health District, Auditorium

Choose from one of these two sessions:

- Wednesday, August 23, 2017
9:00am-12:00pm
Register [here](#).
- Wednesday, August 23, 2017
1:00pm-4:00pm
Register [here](#).

Registration closes at 40 participants per session, or at 5:00pm on August 22, 2017. There is no charge for this event.

SCBC Infant/Toddler Specialist Network Hot Topic Webinars

The Child Care State Capacity Building Center (SCBC) Infant/Toddler Specialist Network will host a series of 1-hour Hot Topic Webinars on the 3rd Wednesday of each month beginning on July 19 and running through December 20, 2017. Each webinar will be held from 1:30–2:30 p.m. Eastern Time (ET).

Resources To Support Health and Wellness Policies for Infant/Toddler Care

This webinar will outline health and safety policies for centers and family child care providers that promote best practices for the care of infants and toddlers. Best practices, resources, and checklists will be shared.

Date and time: Wednesday, August 16, 2017, 1:30–2:30 p.m. ET

Register:

<https://ccssn.adobeconnect.com/healthwellnesspolicies/event/registration.html>

Infant/Toddler Community of Practice: Sharing Initiatives From the Field

This webinar will provide an opportunity for six States to share exciting infant/toddler initiatives that support quality, access, and supply-building. Learn the benefits of participating in a community of practice and connect with State peers.

Date and time: Wednesday, September 20, 2017, 1:30–2:30 p.m. ET

Register: <https://ccssn.adobeconnect.com/communityofpractice/event/registration.html>

State Strategies for Infant/Toddler Supply-Building

This webinar will support States and Territories in identifying multiple strategies for building a supply of quality infant and toddler care, specifically in high-need areas.

Date and time: Wednesday, October 18, 2017, 1:30–2:30 p.m. ET

Register: <https://ccssn.adobeconnect.com/statestrategies/event/registration.html>

Infant/Toddler Mental Health: An Interdisciplinary Approach

This webinar will provide a national overview of States' infant early childhood mental health (I-ECMH) systems-building efforts. The essential building blocks of an I-ECMH system will be presented, along with State examples, promising practices, trends, and innovations.

Date and time: Wednesday, November 15, 2017, 1:30–2:30 p.m. ET

Register: <https://ccssn.adobeconnect.com/mentalhealth/event/registration.html>

Six Essential Practices for Quality Infant/Toddler Care

This webinar will explore six essential practices for high-quality infant/toddler care. Learn the basics of continuity of care, primary care, small groups, individualized care, inclusion, and cultural responsiveness. Resources for additional information will also be shared.

Date and time: Wednesday, December 20, 2017, 1:30–2:30 p.m. ET

Register: <https://ccssn.adobeconnect.com/sixessentialpractices/event/registration.html>

Professional Development Modules for Early Care and Education Providers

Washington State Department of Health developed three online, self-directed [training modules](#) for ECE providers. The modules focus on screen time, healthy eating and physical activity. All of the modules are accredited by DEL.

Resources and Opportunities

The opinions or ideas expressed in the resources below do not necessarily reflect the view of the Department of Early Learning.

Solar Eclipse on August 21, 2017

A rare solar eclipse will occur in August. Providing young children with information and safety practices to follow ahead of time can help to reduce or prevent fear.

Information about the solar eclipse and steps to prepare young children for the event can be found [here](#).

Guidelines to follow for safe viewing can be found [here](#). Steps on how to view the solar eclipse can be found [here](#).

Early Learning

[Keep a close eye on new state agency for children, families](#), *Seattle Times Opinion*

The Legislature and Gov. Jay Inslee took a promising step toward improving the lives of children by forming the new Washington Department of Children, Youth and Families.

The bipartisan plan — shepherded by Rep. Ruth Kagi, D-Seattle, and Sen. Steve O’Ban, R-University Place — should increase the focus on fixing inadequacies of Child Protective Services, the state’s foster-care program and other child-welfare programs currently administered by the Department of Social and Health Services.

[Let’s Make Child Care More Accessible](#), *Inside Higher ED*

In his proposed budget, President Trump outlined his plan to eliminate the [Child Care Access Means Parents in School](#) program, called CCAMPIS, even though data about what America’s student population looks like today and in the foreseeable future support its continued existence. Fittingly named, the program provides on-campus child care for low-income parents enrolled in institutions of higher education and is funded by the U.S. Department of Education.

[Yakima preschool program for low-income families](#), NBC Right Now

It's the middle of summer, but a preschool program in Yakima is already gearing up for the new school year. Enterprise For Progress in the Community - or EPIC - knows how important education is. The non-profit was recently granted 98 new preschool slots by the Department of Early Learning.