



Washington State Department of Early Learning

ECEAP Reminders and Links July 2017

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Important Dates

July 1, 2017: FY 2018 begins

By July 10: Last Invoice for FY 2016-17 due

By July 31: Extended Day classes must be full with actual start dates in ELMS.

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

August 15: Teaching Strategies Gold Summer Checkpoint

October 4-5: ECEAP Director’s Meeting

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

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Updates

ECEAP Contract

As you know, we have not yet sent out the contracts for the next year. The reason is that we have elected to send you **one contract** versus asking you to sign multiple amendments. The effective date for your contract does not change, it will still be July 1, 2017. Your first payment point will also remain August 15th, 2017. The advantage of holding the contracts back is that you will: 1) receive an accurate budget that is a true reflection of the new slot rate; and 2) for those of you being awarded expansion slots, your new slot allocation will be included in your initial contract to avoid additional amendments later. Our goal is to send contracts out to you next week.

Legislative Session Update

The 2017-19 budget was signed by Governor Inslee on June 30th, 2017. Highlights for ECEAP include:

- **ECEAP Slot Rate Increase** – we are working out details and will provide more information soon.
- **ECEAP Expansion**

800 ECEAP slots in 2018 and 1,000 ECEAP slots in 2019, for a total of 1,800 new slots in the biennium.

For 2017-18 there are:

- 280 new Part Day slots
- 480 new Full School Day slots
- 40 new Extended Day slots

Contractors who applied for ECEAP expansion slots will receive more information by email soon. Unfortunately, we couldn't fund all requests. We are prioritizing the requests based on application scores, saturation study priorities, and models funded by the legislature.

- **ECEAP Training Module**

Funding is provided for the department to continue our work with Child Care Aware to support licensed child care providers rated in Early Achievers that are interested in serving children in the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program.

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 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 specialist early if you are having trouble filling slots and need more ideas.

ECEAP Expansion Updates

Expansion Slots: Preliminary Notices

Preliminary notices of ECEAP Expansion awards were released in June. All awards are contingent on funding from the Legislature. Applicants will receive updated information after the 2017-19 budget is agreed upon.

Readiness for ECEAP

Child care readiness: DEL and Child Care Aware of Washington (CCA) are continuing to partner in training interested licensed child care providers on ECEAP Performance Standards and requirements. This training aims to help child care providers assess their readiness to provide ECEAP services, and includes both in-person training and coaching sessions. Training provided by CCA in 2017 includes:

- CCA Eastern Region, Tri-Cities
- CCA Central Region, Yakima and surrounding areas

For more information on the first year of this readiness project, please read the [ECEAP Pathways Project Report](#). If you have specific questions about the Child Care Pathways Project, please contact Nicole Lor, DEL ECEAP Expansion Coordinator, at nicole.lor@del.wa.gov.

ECEAP Tribal Pathways Workgroup

DEL ECEAP is partnering with the Indian Policy Early Learning (IPEL) Committee and tribal nations across the state to explore the unique strengths, challenges and barriers associated with implementing ECEAP in tribal communities. To begin this effort, a workgroup will be formed and will meet for the first time in late Summer 2017. The workgroup will focus on a variety of policy issues specific to ECEAP in tribal communities and will be integrated with the efforts of the ECEAP Expansion Think Tank.

Likely members of this workgroup will include existing tribal ECEAP contractors and subcontractors, IPEL members, DEL's tribal liaison, DEL's Head Start Collaboration Office Administrator, Head Start American Indian/Alaska Native Collaboration Office Director, a representative from the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs, Washington State Association of Head Start and ECEAP, Children's Alliance, non-tribal government representatives, etc. If you have any questions about this workgroup, please contact Kelli Bohanon, DEL ECEAP/State Pre-K Administrator, at kelli.bohanon@del.wa.gov. More information coming soon!

Think Tank Updates

As we prepare for the July 19 Think Tank meeting, we are working on:

- Finalizing the guiding principles for ECEAP Expansion
- Updating the three expansion road maps, centered around workforce, facilities, and slot expansion
- Determining the priority strategies in the ECEAP Expansion Plan for the 2017-18 school year

Contracting Work Group Updates

As we prepare for the July 19 Contracting Work Group meeting, we will be continuing to explore the details of roles from DEL, contractor, and subcontractor, and potential regional functions.

For updated meeting summaries for the expansion advisory bodies, please visit: www.del.wa.gov/eceap and find the section titled "ECEAP Expansion".

ELMS Updates

- Beginning July 1, ELMS will open to the 2017-18 school year. Remember to switch back to 2016-17 to complete the June Monthly Report (due by July 10) or enter end-of-year data.
- Summer Extended Day Classes: Remember that ELMS treats school years distinctly; the 2016-17 ends on June 30.
 - Immediately, make sure all Extended Day classes are set up in ELMS for 2017-18.
 - By July 10, exit all Extended Day children in the 2016-17 school year of ELMS with last day attended dates of June 30, then enroll continuing Extended Day children in the 2017-18 school year of ELMS with start dates of July 1.
 - 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 them in ELMS by the date kindergarten starts in your district.
- By August 15, all sites and classes for the new year must be set up in ELMS by August 15. This sets up the new year in GOLD also. See the three-page instructions: [Starting the New School Year in ELMS](#). This is an earlier start date than previous years, to ensure that GOLD is set up and that legislative staff have access to requested data.
- It's time for ELMS Administrators to remove ELMS access from staff will not return next year.
- For assistance, email elms@del.wa.gov.

Teaching Strategies GOLD®

- Archiving: On July 11, all 2017-18 child records will be archived and only children enrolled in ELMS in 2017-18 will be active in **GOLD®**. Please do not manually archive ECEAP child records.
- Introducing MyTeachingStrategies™:
 - 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.
 - *MyTeachingStrategies™* will provide new opportunities for incorporating ongoing online professional development, digital curriculum components, and eventually, community and family features to further support your work.
 - ECEAP **GOLD®** Administrators and Teachers will receive emails with a preview *MyTeachingStrategies™* account to explore during the summer. Weekly support emails, monthly webinars, embedded video tutorials, and teacher and administrator step-by-step guides will help you navigate this enhanced user experience.
 - To do now:
 - Download and save historic weekly planning forms that you may want to reference in the future. They will not be available after August 15 since the new planning tool is not compatible with the old plans.
 - With the new planning features, rather than using the activity library, you will now have access to the *Intentional Teaching* experiences that are a part of *The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool* and *The Creative Curriculum® for Infants, Toddlers & Twos*. Please feel free to save PDF versions of any activities that you may have used often within the activity library. Please note that your historic messages, saved reports, and historic newsletters will not move into the updated system.

- *GOLD*® Administrators and Teachers can access *MyTeachingStrategies*™ Upgrade Information to find free support, video tutorials, and articles.
 1. Login to *GOLD*® [here](#).
 2. On the *GOLD*® users Site Home page, select “Learn More” to find and explore *MyTeachingStrategies*™ Upgrade Information. This will allow you to:
 - Join a virtual town hall to explore this new platform, submit questions, and get answers from Teaching Strategies experts. Register [here](#).
 - Learn how to access and navigate in the *MyTeachingStrategies*™ preview environment [here](#).
 - Watch a video to explore five ways you can prepare your current *GOLD*® account for the upgrade to *MyTeachingStrategies*™ [here](#).

- The checkpoint due dates for finalizing **Teaching Strategies GOLD assessments** have been set for the 2017-18 school year. They are as follows:
 - Summer – August 15, 2017
 - Fall – November 15, 2017
 - Winter – February 15, 2018
 - Spring – June 15, 2018

- For 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 (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 using this [link](#).

Other Training Opportunities

5th Early Learner Fitness Workshop

This workshop for PreK-2 Primary Classroom Teachers, Elem PE Specialists, Special Education Staff, OY’s, PT’s, Literacy Specialists, Reading Specialists, Music Teachers and any Administrators takes place in Spokane Valley on July 12-13, 2017 from 8:00-2:30pm. Each participant will - receive an electronic ELF Curriculum (valued at \$195), receive lunch along with t-shirt, view the ELF Program in action with our Kids’ Camp, have opportunity to earn Credit or Clock Hours and network with other Specialists working with emergent learners. [Register here to attend](#).

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).

Homelessness: Requirements and Resources

This webinar will take a close look at the requirements in the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014 for services to families experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Resources for planning and implementing services for families will be shared.

Date and time: Wednesday, July 19, 2017, 1:30–2:30 p.m. ET

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

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>

Western Early Achievers/Expanded Learning Opportunities Institute

July 20-23, 2017

Meydenbauer Center-Bellevue, WA

For more information, [click here](#). To register, [click here](#).

Scholarships are available for lodging.

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.

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.

Employment Opportunity

The Snohomish County ECEAP Program is hiring a **Division Manager – Early Learning/Developmental Disabilities Program Area**. The position closes on 7/14/2017. For more information, please visit www.snoco.org and select Job Opportunities.

Early Learning

[‘Infant at Work’ program grows to 10 state agencies](#), King 5

July 2015 marked the beginning of the “Infant at Work” program at the state Department of Health. The video features an interview with a new mother who is bringing her newborn to work. The Department of Early Learning has joined this pilot in 2016, allowing mothers to return to work while caring for their infants.

[Don't Overlook Pre-K Curriculum](#), U.S. News & World Report, Opinion

Should preschool teachers have bachelor's degrees? Do children benefit more from full-day or half-day preschool programs? Should publicly funded preschool be universally available or targeted to the most at-risk students? Should 3-year olds, as well as 4-year olds, attend preschool? As state and local policymakers expand preschool programs, these and other questions are hotly debated. Yet debates about preschool quality and access often ignore another crucial dimension of preschool quality: The curricula that preschool programs use.

[Even With More Research, Many Q's Remain about QRIS](#), New America

As researchers have learned more about the importance of quality in early care and education (ECE) in recent years, policymakers have been trying to figure out how to best raise the caliber of programs. The primary policy solution in almost all states has been to create Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (QRISs) that evaluate the quality of ECE programs based on a common set of metrics established by the state.

[The Call-In: The High Cost of Summer Child Care](#), NPR

NPR's Lulu Garcia-Navarro talks with single mom Deborah Lederman of Nashville, Tenn., about the high cost of summer camp. She took on a second job to help pay for her daughter's summer child care.

Health

Brush Up on Oral Health

Children begin developing oral health habits early. Once a child's oral health habits are set, they often stay with the child for life.

This Brush Up on Oral Health [Tip Sheet](#) from the National Center on Early Childhood Health and Wellness, provides strategies staff can use to promote oral health in young children.

Suggested strategies include:

- Use [teaching practices](#) that engage children.
- Integrate oral health into activities. Click [here](#) for more resources.
- Engage parents in promoting oral health at home.
- Participate in or create oral health campaigns and programs. Examples include [National Children's Dental Health Month](#) and Sesame Workshop's [Healthy Teeth, Healthy Me](#)

Local Food for Little Eaters: How Early Childhood Programs are Making Local Food Work in their Meal Programs!

The MSU Center for Regional Food Systems is excited to announce the release of [Local Food for Little Eaters: A Purchasing toolbox for the Child and Adult Care Food Program](#).

This toolbox is designed to help early care providers purchase local food for their programs. It gives step by step instructions for purchasing from a variety of local food sources.

These instructions include successful strategies and examples of how early childhood programs nationwide are purchasing local food. The resource also includes tools that explain how local food purchasing works with CACFP guidelines, with additional promising strategies from other programs.

Questions? Contact Abigail Harper, Farm to School Specialist at harperab@msu.edu, (517)432-4525.