



## Level 2 Resources and Supports

The Department of Early Learning and its partners are working hard to ensure participants in Early Achievers have access to a variety of resources and supports to assist with their quality improvement efforts.

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### Training

The Professional Training Series is available for participating facility directors and family child care providers free of charge. The Series is comprised of six trainings designed to provide background on the assessments and concepts that will be measured in Levels 3 – 5.

In order to ensure access for all participants, three of the trainings are offered in an online format and three will be traditional in-person trainings offered on a rolling basis statewide.

- ⦿ Environment Rating Scale and Classroom Assessment Scoring System Overview (*online*)
- ⦿ Washington Early Learning Guidelines (*online*)
- ⦿ Washington State Core Competencies for Early Care and Education Professionals (*online*)
- ⦿ Strengthening Families
- ⦿ Introduction to Cultural Competence
- ⦿ School Readiness

Contact your local Child Care Aware of Washington office to find out about trainings near you.  
<http://wa.childcareaware.org/about-us/our-regions>

### Technical Assistance

Free technical assistance (TA) is available to participants throughout the Level 2 process. Your local Child Care Aware of Washington office will provide you with a TA specialist who will partner with you to successfully navigate Early Achievers and prepare for your rating. TA support is customized to meet your facility's needs, and can include:

- ⦿ Technical support with Early Achievers applications, including MERIT help.
- ⦿ Resources and materials related to the Early Achievers quality standard areas.
- ⦿ Information and support to better understand the assessments used in Early Achievers – the Environment Rating Scales (ERS) and the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS).
- ⦿ Follow-up on the Professional Training Series, personal reflections, and actions plans to help apply new knowledge in your program.

## Substitute Pool

The Substitute Pool is designed to support family child care and child care center providers to work toward professional development goals to reach Early Achievers Level 3 or higher by allowing substitute coverage to complete the following activities:

- ⊙ Early Achievers Level 2 training series
- ⊙ Completing self-assessments, action plans, or filing supporting documents
- ⊙ Early Achievers Remedial Activities
- ⊙ Early Achievers Technical Assistance and Coaching
- ⊙ Environmental Rating Scale (ERS) preparation
- ⊙ Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) preparation
- ⊙ Education/Professional Development degrees or certificate programs

Facilities that qualify to use the Substitute Pool:

- ⊙ Have served at least one child on subsidy within the last 12 months;
- ⊙ Are enrolled in Early Achievers and working towards a Level 3 rating; and
- ⊙ Are in good licensing status: this means having a non-expired license that is not suspended, revoked, or on probationary status.

[The Imagine Institute](#), a non-profit organization contracted by DEL, will be administering the Substitute Pool. For more information about the Substitute Pool, email [subpool@imaginewa.org](mailto:subpool@imaginewa.org), or call 206.492.5244.

## Needs-Based Grant

Early Achievers participants may be eligible to receive a Needs-Based Grant to support overcoming challenges in achieving a Level 3 quality rating. These supports include the purchase of materials to improve scores on the ERS or CLASS (such as books, science materials, gross motor equipment, and more), substitute time, curriculum development and instructional materials, and other supplies or equipment helpful in improving program quality. Facilities may work with their Child Care Aware of Washington local office or apply on their own. Application forms are found online at <https://del.wa.gov/earlyachievers/pre-rating>.

For questions about a Needs-Based grant, email [needs.basedgrants@del.wa.gov](mailto:needs.basedgrants@del.wa.gov).

## Tiered Reimbursement

Providers that participate in Early Achievers and provide services to children and families accessing Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) subsidies may be eligible to receive higher subsidy reimbursements.

The Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 43.215.545 allocates a 2% increase to the WCCC subsidy base rate paid to providers enrolled in Early Achievers who are working on Level 2 activities. Providers must rate at a Level 3 or higher within 30 months of enrollment in order to maintain this incentive. Providers that rate at a Level 3 or higher and receive WCCC subsidy are eligible for higher tiered subsidy rates based on their rated level.

## Scholarships

Scholarships are available to Early Achievers participants to support their ongoing professional development goals. There are two types of scholarships available:

- ◉ Washington Scholarships for Child Care Professionals, administered by Child Care Aware of Washington. Information is available about this opportunity online here: <http://www.childcarenet.org/providers/scholarships>.
- ◉ The Early Achievers Grant, administered by the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges. Information is available about this opportunity online here: <http://www.sbctc.edu/colleges-staff/grants/early-achievers-grant-program.aspx>.

More information can be found online at <https://del.wa.gov/professional-development/plan-your-early-learning-career>. Don't forget to connect with your college point-of-contact to explore other opportunities that may be available.

## Supports Available Upon Completion of Level 2

### Level 2 Completion Needs-Based Grant

Early Achievers facilities offering services to families accessing state child care subsidies that complete Level 2 activities between July 1, 2016 and June 1, 2017 are eligible for a one-time \$250 grant. The incentive provides additional support to participants as they prepare for rating. Once a facility's Application for Level 2 is approved in MERIT, and an approved W-9/Washington Statewide Vendor Payee form is on file with The Department of Early Learning, the facility qualifies for the incentive.

Please note that a completed W-9/ Washington Statewide Vendor Payee form must be on file with the Department of Early Learning. If you are not sure if you have a number, you can check the online database here:

<http://www.des.wa.gov/services/ContractingPurchasing/Business/VendorPay/Pages/VL.aspx>.

If you do not have a number, one can be generated for you by filling out and submitting the [Statewide Vendor Payee/W-9 form](#). Incentive funding is a one-time opportunity and is not available past June 2017.

## Supports Available Upon Rating

### Level 2 Quality Improvement Awards

Early Achievers participating family home child care providers who rate a Level 2-5, and child care centers who rate a Level 3-5, may be eligible for a Quality Improvement Award. These awards may be used toward activities that support re-rating or other continuous quality improvement. More information about Quality Improvement Awards can be found in the [Early Achievers Participant Operating Guidelines](#), or email [QRIS@del.wa.gov](mailto:QRIS@del.wa.gov).