



Washington State Department of Early Learning

ECEAP

Reminders and Links

June 2017

Preparing for Government Shutdown/Contingency Planning.....	2
Important Dates	2
GOLD Inter-rater Reliability Certification – Final Due Date June 15	2
ECEAP Self-Assessment – Due Date June 15	2
DEL is Accepting Application for Vacancies on the Early Learning Advisory Council.....	2
PAG Recruiting for Members – Due Date June 9	2
Updates.....	3
State of Preschool Yearbook	3
ECEAP Expansion Updates.....	3
ELMS Updates.....	3
Teaching Strategies GOLD®	5
Legislative Session Update	6
DEL ECEAP Trainings.....	7
ELMS Administrator Training.....	7
DEL ECEAP Creative Curriculum® for Teachers Summer 2017	7
Other Training Opportunities	7
The Impact of GOLD® on Dual-Language Learners (Live Webcast)	7
WSA Summer Institute 2017	7
Western Early Achievers/Expanded Learning Opportunities Institute	7
5th Early Learner Fitness Workshop.....	7
Professional Development Modules for Early Care and Education Providers.....	8
Teaching Strategies GOLD®	8
UW Coaching Certificate.....	8
Resources and Opportunities	9

Preparing for Government Shutdown/Contingency Planning

Although we expect that the 2017-19 operating budget will be enacted prior to June 30, 2017, we find ourselves in a situation that requires us to prepare for possible government shutdown in the case that a budget is not passed prior to the beginning of the new state fiscal year on July 1st. As a general rule, the Washington State Constitution (Article 8, Section 4) and state law (RCW 43.88.130 and RCW 43.88.290) prohibit expenditures or commitments of state funds (including ECEAP) in the absence of appropriations of such funds by the Legislature. Without a budget appropriation, agencies cannot expend funds nor incur liabilities after June 30, 2017. As a result, DEL is preparing to issue letters in the near future to all of our contractors outlining the process we must adhere to during this time. In addition, given the immediate impact that a July 1st government shutdown would have on Extended Day ECEAP families, we are preparing some messaging that we will share with you for communicating with families about this. If you have specific questions about any of this, please contact us at eceap@del.wa.gov.

GOLD Inter-rater Reliability Certification – Final Due Date June 15

ECEAP requires that each lead teacher obtain GOLD inter-rater reliability (IRR) certification within 6 months of hire, and renews it every 3 years thereafter. The data in Teaching Strategies GOLD is used for your curriculum and program planning and in statewide research which is frequently provided to policymakers. Therefore, it is very important that each ECEAP lead teacher is reliably entering these data. Statewide, currently 83 percent of lead teachers have this certification. DEL recently emailed ECEAP Directors if they have lead teachers with overdue or expired certifications, and these staff must complete the requirement by June 15, 2017. If there are overdue IRR's after that date, DEL will consider withholding payments until the requirement is met.

ECEAP Self-Assessment – Due Date June 15

The [ECEAP Self-Assessment](#) is live on the DEL website. The self-assessment reviews your compliance with requirements in the current ECEAP contract and Performance Standards. Self-assessment is one component of an ongoing cycle of continuous quality improvement. ECEAP Performance Standard A-8 requires all contractors to include ECEAP staff and parents in this annual assessment and document the results on this form.

DEL is Accepting Application for Vacancies on the Early Learning Advisory Council

We are excited for the opportunity for our ECEAP contractors to represent the program on the ELAC. This is a governor-appointed seat that will be effective for two years upon appointment. Please read the [Recruitment Announcement](#) and submit your application online on the [Governor's website](#) by June 11, 2017. If you have questions, please contact slc@del.wa.gov

PAG Recruiting for Members – Due Date June 9

Important Dates

By June 11: Submit Application for ELAC representative

By June 15: ECEAP Self-Assessment

By June 15: All lead teachers employed six or more months must have a current GOLD inter-rater reliability (IRR) certification.

By June 15: ECEAP Customer Service Surveys for Parents and ECEAP contractors

By June 30: Set up Extended Day classes in ELMS for the 2017-18 year.

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.

October 4-5: ECEAP Director's Meeting

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

[DEL ECEAP Website](#)

[DEL Facebook Page](#) [DEL Blog](#)

[DEL Twitter](#)

DEL is recruiting for five Parent Advisory Group (PAG) members from the following [regions](#):

- Northwest
- Olympic-Kitsap Peninsula
- Southwest
- Pierce County

Interested individuals who qualify and can commit to the membership requirements are invited to complete the application available on the [Parent Advisory Group website](#) **by June 9, 2017**.

Please help spread the word and share widely!

[2017 Recruitment Announcement](#)

Updates

State of Preschool Yearbook

Each year, the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) at Rutgers University produces the [State of Preschool Yearbook](#) on state prekindergarten programs, including ECEAP. Their goal is to drive quality of and access to state-funding prekindergarten. The recently released 2016 yearbook includes objective state-by-state profiles and rankings based on the 2015-16 school year. Your data entered in ELMS helped DEL provide accurate information for this report.

ECEAP met 9 of the current 10 national benchmarks for quality established by NIEER. The tenth point would require BA degrees for all lead teachers. NIEER is initiating new benchmarks for future years; ECEAP currently meets 7 of 10 of these. To meet all 10, ECEAP would need to require teachers to have bachelor's degrees, begin annual structured observations of classroom quality, require 15 hours of professional development per year for assistant teachers (the same as lead teachers), and require written professional development plans for all lead and assistant teachers.

ECEAP is eighth in the nation for total average expenditures per child at \$8,305 per child, averaging all ECEAP models.

ECEAP Expansion Updates

ECEAP Expansion work is continuing to move forward through the efforts of the Think Tank and Contracting Workgroup meetings. The Think Tank's main focus is to serve as a venue to explore potential changes to ECEAP processes that can support expansion of high-quality ECEAP services along the legislatively-mandated timeline, and to advise on obstacles to becoming an ECEAP provider and how to overcome them. As a subgroup of the Think Tank, the Contracting Workgroup is charged with providing insight and advice regarding changes to ECEAP contracting and subcontracting processes, tools, and documents. Each group met recently on May 22, 2017.

The Think Tank focused on:

- Solidifying principles that will guide ECEAP Expansion
- Verifying and adding major steps, actions, and key issues in three main expansion areas:
 - Facilities
 - Workforce
 - Slot placement

The Contracting Workgroup focused on:

- Advising on functions and capacities needed in key ECEAP services for distributing across three levels:
 - Statewide/DEL
 - Potential regional entity or function
 - Local level (contractor/subcontractor)

Notes from both of these meetings will be available soon. Future updates on ECEAP Expansion will be offered through Steering Committee and Reminders and Links.

For questions, please contact ECEAP Expansion Coordinator Nicole Lor at nicole.lor@del.wa.gov

ELMS Updates

Summer Classes

- Remember that ELMS treats school years distinctly. The 2016-17 ends on June 30.
 - Exit continuing Extended Day children in the 2016-17 school year of ELMS with last day attended dates of June 30.
 - Enroll continuing Extended Day children in the 2017-18 school year of ELMS with start dates of July 1.
 - You can complete these processes in ELMS any time between June 23 and July 10.
- Children who will be age-eligible in the fall may enroll in summer ECEAP only if they were enrolled in ECEAP during the previous school year. They must be exited by the start date for public kindergarten that fall.
 - New kindergarten eligible children cannot enroll in ECEAP during the summer.
 - ELMS will not allow summer enrollment for a child who will be five years old on August 31, unless they were enrolled in 2016-17 ECEAP and started on or before June 30, 2017.
- Summer classes must be set up in the 2017-18 school year of ELMS by June 30.
- Make sure all Extended Day classes are full and each child has an actual start date in ELMS by July 31.

The 2017-18 school year is now available in ELMS.

- 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.
- Three-page instructions: [Starting the New School Year in ELMS](#).

Summer Director Contacts

This month, please make sure summer contact information for ECEAP Directors is correct in ELMS.

- ELMS requires a personal email and phone number for ECEAP Directors, along with their office contact information. The purpose of this is to ensure that DEL can reach the Director during the summer or during breaks, if there is critical new information such as a legislative decision that emerges after the end of the school year.
- In ELMS, on the Staff tab, search for the Director and click Edit to check that personal phone and email are up-to-date.

Removing ELMS Access

- ELMS Administrators should remove ELMS access from any staff who will not return next school year.

For assistance, email elms@del.wa.gov.

Teaching Strategies GOLD®

- Archiving:
 - IMPORTANT- For classes that ended in April or May, enter the final checkpoint ratings in *GOLD*® before you exit the child from ELMS. Otherwise the children will have been automatically archived in *GOLD*®. Between June 1 and July 10 *GOLD*® will not archive children, so you will have time to enter *GOLD* checkpoint ratings before the records are archived.
 - 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.
- New *GOLD* cut scores:
 - Last fall, Teaching Strategies announced new cut scores for *GOLD*® for kindergarten readiness based on multi-year nationwide research. For the purpose of statewide reporting, ECEAP is changing to these cut scores in spring 2017 and WaKIDS in fall 2017.
 - *GOLD*® Administrators who use the Comparative report, run for kindergarten readiness, will see a slight change in the scores. Here is a summary of the changes:

***GOLD*® Kindergarten Readiness Cut Scores**

Developmental Domain	Old Scale Score cut-off	New Scale Score cut-off
Social-Emotional	595	601
Physical	592	592
Language	588	606
Cognition	603	609
Literacy	591	603
Math	641	641

- 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.

Legislative Session Update

The first 30 day special legislative session ended on May 23. We are now in the second week of the second special legislative session. Both [SHB 1445](#) and [2SSB 5107](#) were delivered and signed by Governor. Budget negotiations are still ongoing. [HB 1777](#) concerning the financing of early learning facilities has been reintroduced and referred to the Senate Ways & Means committee. DEL is currently attending bi-weekly meetings with other state agencies to discuss the implementation and capacity concerns of HB 1777.

Signing of Substitute Senate Bill No. 5107



Governor Inslee signed the Substitute Senate Bill No. 5107 on May 4, 2017. The bill, also known as the Pathways Bill, relates to creating a pathway for local governments, school districts, institutions of higher education, and nonprofit organizations to provide more high quality early learning opportunities by reducing barriers and increasing efficiency.

The picture above shows from left to right: Chris Stanley (DEL Budget Director), Sen. Andy Billig, Frank Ordway (DEL Assistant Director Government & Community Relations), Gov. Inslee, Rep. Ruth Kagi, Kelli Bohanon (ECEAP/ State Pre-K Administrator) and Kelcy Shaffer (ECEAP Program Planning and Operations Specialist).

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](#).

DEL ECEAP Creative Curriculum® for Teachers Summer 2017

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

- June 15-16, 2017 – ESD 123, Pasco, WA
- Register using this [link](#)

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.

The Impact of GOLD® on Dual-Language Learners (Live Webcast)

Teaching Strategies is hosting a live webcast on the topic of dual language learners. You can [register](#) even if you cannot attend, as they will send you the recording. The webcast is presented by Jennifer Mosley and Richard Lambert on Wednesday, June 7, 2017 from 1-2pm ET.

WSA Summer Institute 2017

WSA is offering various training during the Summer Institute from June 26-28, 2017 at the Central Washington University Conference Center. Trainings available to participants include TS Gold and ERS Reliability Trainings, taught by DEL ECEAP trainers.

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.

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.](#)

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.

Teaching Strategies GOLD®

- *GOLD*® Administrators and Teachers can access user guides, how to videos, and recorded webinars to get detailed support you in completing the checkpoint process successfully [here](#). Resources include:
 - FAQ: [Managing the Checkpoint Process](#)
 - PDF: [Administrator Guide, Section 4: Checkpoints](#)
 - Video: [Upload Photos and Videos in GOLD](#)®
 - Video: [Upload Your Own Weekly Planning Form to GOLD](#)®
 - *GOLD*® Documentation App: [Learn about and download the app](#)
- The free *Teaching Strategies GOLD*® Basic Course is available to Contractor staff with a *GOLD*® username. In four self-paced interactive modules, you can type in reflections, view video clips, and complete short activities and quizzes. A certification of completion is available when all four modules are completed. To access this course:
 - Sign in [here](#)
 - Go to Dashboard>Professional Development>Courses
 - Select *Teaching Strategies GOLD*® Basic

UW Coaching Certificate

The [UW Early Childhood and Expanded Learning Opportunities Coaching Certificate program](#) combines latest research, best practices, and feedback from coaches in the field. The result is a unique program to support coaches in developing the skills they need to bring their best, creative selves to each and every coaching relationship. Topics from the coaching certificate curriculum include:

- Fostering a culturally responsive practice
- Mastering relationship-based professional development competencies
- Implementing practice-based coaching methodologies
- Promoting engaging interactions and environments
- Supporting teachers in positive behavior strategies

Resources and Opportunities

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

Health

FDA warns Americans about Risks of Inaccurate Results from certain Lead Tests

[The U.S. Food and Drug Administration and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) are warning Americans that certain lead tests manufactured by Magellan Diagnostics may provide inaccurate results for some children and adults in the United States.

The CDC is recommending that health care providers retest children younger than six years (72 months) of age if:

- their test was conducted using blood drawn from a vein using any Magellan Diagnostics' LeadCare System tests, and
- they received a result of less than 10 micrograms per deciliter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$)

The CDC also recommends that women who are currently pregnant or nursing and were tested in this manner while pregnant or nursing get retested. Other adults who are concerned about their risk or the risk to an older child should speak to their health care provider about whether they should be retested.

Racial Equity

How to Run a Better Equity Focused Meeting

Equity Matters produced this [blog](#) to help understand our roles in undoing racism and challenging long held beliefs. Racial equity work should make us all think and challenge us to think and accept new information. Racial equity work is also about changing systems and centering the experiences and voices of people and communities of color.

Early Education

Seattle Preschool Allows Moms and Kids to Work Side-By-Side, King 5

Many working mothers will tell you that finding affordable child care is tough, especially in big cities like Seattle. It's even tougher when a parent works part-time or has an irregular work schedule.

A [Seattle organization](#) is trying to help moms get their work done and get time with their kids. Women's Business Incubator is a coworking space that has drop-in childcare with a preschool teacher.

Child Care Aware® of America Introduces the Family Voices Blog/Vlog Series, [ChildCareAware.org](#)

This [link](#) leads to the CCA Family Voices Blog/Vlog series! Grab your favorite cup of coffee or tea to enjoy while you immerse yourself in the real-world child care experiences of families from across the nation.

These stories all have been written or video logged by people just like you and me who care deeply about the child care choices they have and see immense value in the opportunities that early care and education services offer for children, families, employers, and communities.

Public Policy

New Department would Save Foster Youth – and Money, Yakima Herald

[This article](#) speaks on the benefits of the proposal for a new Department of Children, Youth and Families (House Bill 1661). This new department would combine the current Department of Early Learning, the Children’s Administration and Juvenile Rehabilitation. The author highlights the impact the new department could have on the foster care system.