Early Childhood Education & Assistance Program

Washington State Department of Early Learning

ECEAP Reminders and Links May 2017

ECEAP Self-Assessment
The ECEAP Self-Assessment is live on the DEL website. Due on June 15, 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.

SAVE THE DATE - Fall ECEAP Directors Meeting
This year's ECEAP Director's Meeting will be held on October 4-5, 2017 in the Seattle area. We will be sending more information about the times, agenda and location once it becomes available.

ECEAP Directors' Webinar
The May ECEAP Directors' Webinar will be on May 4, 2017. Register using this link.

Community Assessment Update
DEL ECEAP will allow contractors who are also Head Start grantees to use their Head Start Community Assessment to meet the ECEAP Community Assessment requirement. This will allow contractors to complete one in-depth assessment every 5 years that will be reviewed and adjusted annually. Contractors may amend the timing of the full assessment to match their Head Start deadline. If you have any questions about this do not hesitate to reach out to the PKS who supports your program.

New Contractor/Director Webinars
DEL cancelled all new ECEAP Contractor/Directors Webinars for the remainder of the year. However, the previous new ECEAP Contractor/Director Webinars are available on the DEL website. The first in the series is an ECEAP Overview. You will also find topics on Eligibility and Enrollment, ELMS Overview, Operating Budget and Completing Vouchers. There will be additional topics added throughout the year.

Important Dates

By May 15: Submit 2017-18 Service Area Agreements to DEL by mail or email.

By May 30: Teachers finalize the spring checkpoint in GOLD® by Teaching Strategies.

Want to know more? Follow us here:

DEL ECEAP Website

DEL Facebook Page

DEL Blog

DEL Twitter

2017 Regional Partnership Summits Postponed
The plan for these summits is to provide an opportunity for professionals, working with early learning providers, to strengthen connections with other professionals in their region and learn more about the work being done in the field. Originally scheduled for June of 2017, DEL decided to postpone these regionalized meetings due to competing priorities such as Early Achievers Level 2 milestones and alignment. Pre-K Specialists will keep ECEAP directors informed of rescheduled dates once this information is available.

Legislative Session Update
The regular legislative session ended on April 23. We are now in the first week of the special legislative session. Both SHB 1445 and 2SSB 5107 was delivered to the Governor's desk for signature. Below are the adopted changes to SHB 1445:

- Requires DEL to work with community partners to support outreach and education for parents and families around the benefits of native language development and retention, as well as the benefits of dual language learning.
- Within existing resources, DEL must create training and professional development resources on dual language learning, such as supporting English learners, working in culturally and linguistically diverse communities, strategies for family engagement, and cultural responsiveness.
- DEL must design the training modules to be culturally responsive.
- Within existing resources, DEL must support dual language learning communities for teachers and coaches.

One Pager on Immigrant and Refugee Families
DEL released a one-page tips and suggestions for what child care and early learning professionals can do to help protect immigrant/refugee children and families. DEL does not discriminate or enact policy that discriminates based on nationality, race, or religion. We reinforce our state's commitment to supporting diversity and inclusion. We are aware of community concerns on new federal immigration policies and their impact on immigrant and refugee families.

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.

ELMS Updates

Summer 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.

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

- You can now set up 2017-18 sites and classes and begin enrolling children in classes.
- If you have Extended Day classes, set these up in ELMS by June 30, so you can transition smoothly to the new year beginning July 1. This sets up the new year in GOLD also.
- Three-page instructions: Starting the New School Year in ELMS.

ELMS Improvements - Changes released on April 24 included:

- For any hearing or vision screening, you can now select "Unable to Determine" as an option. Previously, this option was limited to a child's first screening in ECEAP.
- There is now an alert on the Child Search results list for children who were homeless and did not have eligibility documents to verify by enrollment. You must work with the family to obtain and review these documents within 90 days. The child's application will be locked at this point, so you must email elms@del.wa.gov with the document names.
- ELMS Administrators for each ECEAP Contractor can once again remove ELMS access for a staff person. The "Remove Login Access" button is back on each staff person's Edit Staff page.
- For Contractors in the family support pilot, the Family Support Monitoring report is enhanced so:
    - Data for siblings displays correctly.
    - Each child's family support staff person is listed.
    - Children with two households now only appear once on the report.

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.

Staff Qualifications – Final Due Date May 15

Since July 1, 2014, ECEAP lead teachers, assistant teachers, and family support staff have been required to submit an ECEAP staff qualifications application in the DEL MERIT system. Upon doing this, many staff are eligible for a cash Professional Development Achievement Award. Currently 79 percent of these staff have completed this requirement. DEL recently emailed ECEAP Directors if they have staff that must complete ECEAP staff qualifications in MERIT by the May 15, 2017 due date. If there are outstanding staff qualifications after that date, DEL will consider withholding payments until the requirement is met. Contractor-level staff with ELMS access can view the status quickly on the ELMS Staff Monitoring Report. For more information, see Entering ECEAP Staff Quals in MERIT. Send questions to eceap@del.wa.gov.

New Family Support Staff Qualifications
Family Support Staff can now choose to become fully qualified for their position by earning a Home Visitor Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential from the Council of Professional Recognition. By earning the Home Visitor CDA, staff will receive training and gain skills in the following areas:

- Promoting health and safety in the home environment
- Enhancing parents' skills to advance children's physical and intellectual development
- Promoting parents' use of positive ways to support children's social and emotional development
- Understanding family systems and development
- Managing an effective home visitor program operation
- Maintaining a commitment to professionalism
- Working across the child welfare continuum
- Understanding principles of child developing and learning

For additional options and more information about staff qualifications, view Entering Staff Qualifications in MERIT or email us at eceap@del.wa.gov.

Teaching Strategies GOLD®

- IMPORTANT: For classes ending in April and May. You must enter the final checkpoint ratings in GOLD before you exit the child from ELMS. Once children are exited in ELMS, they are automatically archived in GOLD. For classes ending in June, DEL will pause sending child exits to GOLD, so you will be sure to have time to enter GOLD checkpoint ratings.
- 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.

Early Achievers Level 2 Completion Needs-Based Grant is available
Available immediately, the Early Achievers Level 2 Completion Needs-Based Grant is a $250.00 incentive for participating Early Achievers facilities that complete Level 2 activities and submit the "Application for Level 2" in MERIT between July 1, 2016 and June 1, 2017. The purpose of the incentive is to support the facility to prepare for rating, to potentially achieve a rated Level 3. No application process required. Once a facility's Application for Level 2 is approved in MERIT, and an approved W-9/Washington Statewide Vendor Payee (SWV) form is on file with The Department of Early Learning (DEL), the facility qualifies for the incentive.

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

Coach Consultation Available to All Coaches

CQEL at the University of Washington launched a system for scheduling and providing consultation for coaches and they are extending this resource to ECEAP and Head Start coaches. Monthly consultation is *optional* and available for everyone coaching in Early Achievers. The Coach Support Team provides individual consultation with coaches related to each coach's specific work and professional development goals. Coach and consultant pairs meet monthly, and go through the Practice-Based Coaching cycle of goal setting, observation and feedback, and reflection. This individual consultation creates a venue in which coaches can problem-solve and connect to specific resources, and in which consultants can ensure that each coach is fully supported as they use the Coach Model with early educators. If you're a new coach, once you've completed their two-day New Coach Training, you will have the opportunity to receive consultation with Wendy Jans or West Keller for three months following the training.

You can access the electronic calendar for scheduling a consultation by going to this link. Here you will find the six consultants' profiles with content expertise for each. Once you select a consultant's profile that best meets your current coaching needs, it will pull up their calendar of available dates and times for scheduling consultation. After clicking on a date and time, a confirmation screen will appear. At that point, you can confirm or cancel if you need to select a different date. Once you have confirmed your appointment, you will receive an email confirmation with the date, time and consultant you chose. Please note that you will be asked to provide a phone number for the consultant to reach you. All consultation is provided via the phone. For any questions, please contact the Pre-K Specialist who works with you.

Bellevue School District Families Moving Forward

Taught by Alicia Brender the ECEAP Child Development Coordinator, the final session of Families Moving Forward for Bellevue School Districts ECEAP parents was recently held. This is DEL curriculum on executive function to parents and caregivers of ECEAP children. ECEAP parent Nellie Hernandez made this cake and brought it share with her fellow ECEAP participants.

DEL ECEAP Trainings

Tribal Early Learning Language Summit
We are very excited to offer this free summit featuring a great line up WA State and National Tribal Language supporters. Participants will form teams of up to five people to find ways to support more tribal language in their tribal early learning centers. Each participant will need to register individually. Click here to view the flyer. A link to the registration and a draft agenda can be found on the DEL Tribal Nations webpage.

- May 9-11, 2017, Emerald Queen Casino Events Center, Tacoma/Fife, WA
- Register using this link
- For questions, email Tleena Ives or call (360) 999-0077

ECEAP Enrollment and Eligibility Training
DEL is sponsoring a 1-day enrollment and eligibility training for ECEAP. All staff who review and verify eligibility information for ECEAP families, and who enroll families into the program are encouraged to attend.

- May 18, 2017, ESD 123, Pasco, WA
- May 22, 2017, Green River Community College, Kent, WA
- Register using this link

ECERS (3-Day) Reliability Training
Coaches who support ECEAP funded classrooms and have completed the ECERS (1-Day) Deep Dive training in the previous 3 months should attend this training.
This training is free to Early Achievers Coaches supporting ECEAP funded classrooms. Participants are responsible to arrange their own travel/accommodations and meals.

- May 22-24, 2017, Vancouver, WA
- Contact ECEAP at ECEAP@del.wa.gov to register for this training.

DEL ECEAP Creative Curriculum® for Teachers Spring 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

Training for New ELMS Administrators – Save the Date
This free one-day training is for ELMS Administrators who will be the ELMS super-users for their ECEAP contractor. Details will be available in the June ECEAP *Reminders and Links*

- August 3, 2017 – 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM, Kent, WA
- September 8, 2017 – 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM, Central/Eastern Washington location

Other Training Opportunities

Facilitator's Training for Early Numeracy Modules
Counting & Cardinality: This workshop is designed to support those professional learning leaders who are interested in offering the Early Numeracy Counting and Cardinality content to their teachers and/or providers

- May 16, 2017, ESD 105, Yakima, WA
- Register using this link

4th Annual Nutrition First Spring Nutrition Conference
This annual event brings together speakers to present current public health nutrition topics, focusing primarily on pre-natal through age 5. Early Learning Providers, Child Care Providers, Health Promotion staff, Public Health Workers, and anyone else interested in helping to promote practical and research based public health messages should attend.

- May 18, 2017, Shoreline Conference Center, Shoreline, WA
- Full agenda and registration information at www.nutritionfirstwa.org/events

Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS)
You can explore resources for teachers, coaches, and observers about CLASS on this blog. Recent blog topics include *How To Get Your Child to Listen: Finding Parallels with CLASS Dimensions* or *Teacher Tips: Balancing Regard and Organization*. Select this link to view these coach tips and many other topics.

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.

Watch Me! Celebrating Milestones and Sharing Concerns
Too many young children with developmental delays or disabilities miss the opportunity to benefit from early intervention services that can help them reach their full potential. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention offers a FREE, 1-hour online continuing education course, Watch Me! Celebrating Milestones and Sharing Concerns, to provide early care and education providers tools and best practices for them to work with families to monitor every young child's development and help children with developmental delays get the early support they need.

Webinar: **Classroom Management Supports for ADHD Behaviors in Early Childhood Settings**
A free webinar from the National Resource Center on ADHD's "Ask the Expert" series with Desiree Murray, Ph.D., takes a look at ways to support positive development for young children with challenging behaviors. In this webinar, you will learn to:

- Identify the social-emotional and behavioral needs of young children who are often hyperactive, non-compliant, and disruptive
- Describe key principles underlying behavior management interventions
- Explain how teacher "co-regulation" and skills instruction can support self-regulation development
- List at least two approaches you can use to increase positive classroom behaviors

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

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

Introductory Webinars: *Bright Futures Guidelines,* 4th Edition
Learn about the revised and updated *Bright Futures Guidelines,* 4th Edition from the editors themselves. This 45-minute Webinar on May 24 covers Bright Futures Guidelines, 4th Edition is for health care professionals and public health professionals. All webinars will be recorded and posted on the Bright Futures Web site for anyone that cannot participate in the live events.

National Child Abuse Prevention Month
April was National Child Abuse Prevention Month, a time to recognize that we all can play an important role in making meaningful connections with children and families within our communities. Young children from birth to age 5 in the United States are more likely to experience child maltreatment, subsequent child welfare system (CWS) involvement, negative developmental outcomes, and serious maltreatment-related injuries and death than older children. These tips and tools are a way to get started in creating partnerships within your community that can play a role in preventing child abuse and neglect and in promoting child and family well-being

Regional Accountable Communities of Health
This fact sheet highlights how early learning providers can connect with their regional Accountable Communities of Health (ACH) to build stronger, healthier communities and solve local health issues. Currently, nine ACH's operate across Washington representing all counties in the state. By collaborating with your regional ACH, you bring the early learning perspective to the conversation and can assist in identifying specific health needs in your region and collaborate on ways to address those needs.

Racial Equity

ECEAP Reduces Disparities for Children of Color
This new KIDS COUNT in Washington research brief estimates that there are currently about 23,000 unserved children eligible for ECEAP in Washington of whom 62 percent are children of color. Their analysis concluded that, if ECEAP was provided for these unserved children:

- Kindergarten readiness in Washington overall could increase by 20 percent;
- 7,900 more children could be ready for kindergarten on all six indicators of readiness (social-emotional, physical, language, cognitive, literacy, and mathematics) by the end of their year in ECEAP; and
- The share of Latino, American Indian, and Black children ready for kindergarten could have the largest increases.

Guidance on Immigration Enforcement
The Washington State Attorney General's office recently released Guidance Concerning Immigration Enforcement. The purpose of the guidance is to describe for local government agencies and other entities in Washington State key elements of the legal landscape governing immigration enforcement. Much of the information is relevant and a model for other states.

National Digital Inclusion Alliance
Saint Paul Public Libraries and the City of Saint Paul are hosting the second conference of the National Digital Inclusion Alliance, which includes many cities and libraries working with local government on measuring digital inclusion including broadband internet, federal and local policy, and basic digital skills. The conference is May 16-17. Click here for more information.

Resiliency in Communities after Stress and Trauma
SAMHSA's- *Resiliency in Communities after Stress and Trauma (ReCAST)* is accepting applications. The purpose of this program is to assist high-risk youth and families and promote resilience and equity in communities that have recently faced civil unrest through implementation of evidence-based, violence prevention, and community youth engagement programs, as well as linkages to trauma-informed behavioral health services. The goal is for local community entities to work together in ways that lead to improved behavioral health, empowered community residents, and reductions in trauma, and sustained community change. SAMHSA intends to fund 2 grants for up to $1 million dollars for 5 years. Applications are due May 17, 2017. The full grant announcement can be accessed here.

Sanctuary Cities Toolkit from Local Progress
Local Progress issued a Sanctuary Cities Toolkit, and may be helpful for those looking to strengthen work to protect immigrants in your communities.

Early Education

Letter to the Editor
This letter to the editor in the Tri-City Herald written by the Kennewick Police Chief talks about the benefits of ECEAP. The pre-K access and kindergarten readiness rates in the local community are among the lowest in the state.

Talking with Families about Development Concerns
Use this 29-minute Head Start simulation to learn to make intentional choices about what to discuss with family members when you have a developmental concern about a child, and how to respond to family feedback.

Public Policy

Benefits of Early Care and Education for Children in the Child Welfare System
This brief explores emerging evidence from social science research on the contribution of early care and education programs to the CWS's goals of child safety, permanency, and well-being. An examination of that evidence points to ECE's potential value for young children in the CWS, but the best available data suggest that the child welfare population tends to underuse ECE services.

Choosing What Education to Fund
This article talks about how low-income students who participate in ECEAP enter kindergarten as ready to learn as their more affluent classmates.

ECEAP Day in Snohomish County
Snohomish County Executive Dave Somers and Snohomish County Council signed a joint resolution declaring April 20, 2017 as ECEAP Day in honor of ECEAP's 30th anniversary. Starting with 72 slots in 1988, they now serve 1,233 slots.

Head Start Improvement Act
This Federal legislation introduced would "replace the existing Head Start program with block grants to states and Indian tribes for prekindergarten (pre-K) education," according to the official Congressional Record summary. The legislation makes no mention of the Migrant and Seasonal Head Start program.

San Juan ECEAP
This article talks about San Juan ECEAP and the local early learning coalition's efforts on the islands. In conjunction with the San Juan County Early Learning Coalition and local education programs, the council has proclaimed April 24-28 the "Week of the Young Child."