



Washington State Department of Early Learning

ECEAP

Reminders and Links

September 2016

Fall ECEAP Directors Meeting

The ECEAP Directors Meeting is on October 5 and 6 at the DoubleTree Spokane City Center. At this meeting, you will receive important information updates and participate in discussions to shape the future direction of ECEAP. Per your ECEAP contract, you are required to send a representative to this meeting. Email eceap@del.wa.gov if you need assistance with room reservations at the discounted rate.

ECEAP Caseload Forecast and Saturation Study Reports

New versions of the [ECEAP Caseload Forecast Report](#) and the 2016 [ECEAP and Head Start Saturation Study Report](#) were released in July. These correct an error in the versions released earlier this spring, increasing the numbers of eligible children. By December 1, we will release updated versions of both reports; it is this fall 2016 data that will inform 2017 ECEAP expansion decisions. Send questions to eceap@del.wa.gov.

DEL Releases Culturally Responsive Guidelines

As mandated by Washington's Early Start Act (passed in July of 2015), DEL provided recommendations to the Legislature on research-based cultural competency guidelines for early learning professional training. Check them out [here](#).

The guidelines:

- Serve as a statewide resource for everyone involved in the professional development of early childhood educators.
- Provide expectations for professional development creation, delivery, and evaluation.
- Outline essential information to enhance the cultural responsiveness of professional development in Washington State.
- Provide a lens for continuous quality improvement of the professional development system and professional competencies.

Important Dates

By September 15:

- In ELMS, complete all Contractor, Subcontractor, Site and Class sections for the new school year.
- Submit 2016-17 ECEAP Operating Budget to DEL.

By October 1: Submit staff compensation data on the template provided by DEL.

Want to know more?

Follow us here:

[DEL Facebook Page](#)

[DEL Professional Development Facebook Page](#)

[DEL Twitter](#)

[DEL Blog](#)

ECEAP Portable Background Checks Update

IMPORTANT: Contractor-level staff that monitor sites, and may have unsupervised access to children, should wait for further instructions before applying for a PBC. DEL is working on a fix in the system for this and will release guidance soon.

PBC Disqualifications: If an individual applying for a PBC receives a letter from the Department stating that they have been "Disqualified", it means that DEL has determined that background information prevents them from being authorized to care for or have unsupervised access to children receiving early learning services, or to be present on the early learning service's premises during the hours for which care is provided. An individual may be disqualified due to crimes found on the Director's List [WAC 170-06-0120](#); a "Negative Action", which means a court order, court judgment or an adverse action taken by an agency, in any state, federal, tribal or foreign jurisdiction, which results in a finding against the subject individual reasonably related to the subject individual's character, suitability and competence to care for or have unsupervised access to children receiving early learning services; or "Nonconviction Information" meaning an arrest, pending charges, founded allegations of child abuse, or neglect pursuant to [Chapter 26.44 RCW](#), or other negative action adverse to the subject individual. Anyone who has received a letter of disqualification from DEL has the right to contest the department's disqualification decision under [WAC 170-06-0070](#) and must request a hearing within 28 days of receipt of the disqualification decision.

Please contact your Pre-K Specialist with any questions regarding this process and next steps. A complete copy of DEL background check rules can be found at [WAC 170-06](#).

ECEAP Staff Qualifications

ECEAP Contractors must monitor that all ECEAP lead teachers, assistant teachers, and family support staff complete ECEAP staff qualifications applications in MERIT. Staff registered in MERIT in the "Grantee/Contractor" role can monitor applications and also enter employment dates using the instructions [here](#).

- As you hire ECEAP lead teachers, assistant teachers, and family support staff, ensure that they enter the education that qualifies them for their ECEAP role into the MERIT system.
- There is a substantial [financial award](#) to the individual staff member based on the education entered (unless the staff person has already received their full award).
- The verification process requires that staff send official transcripts or copies of official transcripts. If you send copies of unofficial transcripts, grade reports, or documents printed from the web, they will not be processed and it will delay your staff qualifications verification and your education award. If you are copying two-sided documents, be sure to copy and send both sides.
- Read the full instructions on entering staff qualifications in MERIT [here](#).

ELMS Updates

- By September 15, you must complete all Contractor, Subcontractor, Site and Class sections of ELMS for the new school year. For detailed assistance, see the [ELMS Administrators manual](#). For a quick summary of starting the 2016-17 school year in ELMS, click [here](#).
- A new version of ELMS released on July 29, including these improvements:
 - When selecting health insurance options, DSHS ProviderOne Services Card and Washington Basic Health are no longer on the list. These are replaced by “ProviderOne/Washington Apple Health.”
 - Indian Child Welfare (ICW) has been added to all locations in ELMS that previously said Child Protective Services (CPS).
 - The Health Status by Child report now includes descriptions of chronic conditions.
 - On the Monthly Report, Contractor page, there is a new section to enter the name of the person who attended Relationship-Based Professional Development (RBPD) meetings sponsored by your local Child Care Aware and the date of those meetings.
 - On the Monthly Report, Class page, Step 3 wording is changed so it is clear you enter child counts as of the last class day of the month.
 - When you enter a critical or urgent note in Child/Family Updates on the Child Development or Family page, you can now check a box to email the lead teacher or family support staff that an important note is there.
- Before creating a new ECEAP site in ELMS, email a completed [Site Approval Form](#) to your Pre-k Specialist. After the new site has been approved you may add this site in ELMS.
- ELMS Administrators should remove ELMS access from any staff who have left ECEAP.
- Paper versions of the prescreen and application are available [here](#), under “Enrollment.”
- For assistance with ELMS, email elms@del.wa.gov.

DEL Website Improvements

A revised DEL website was released on July 1. Further improvements and updates are coming later this year. To get to the ECEAP contractor pages:

- Go to <https://www.del.wa.gov>.
- Click the ECEAP “tile” in the lower left of the home page.
 - Or click the Providers-Educators link on the blue bar and select ECEAP.
- You can view your contractor forms and information on this [page](#).
- Remember to reset your bookmarks and clear your cached images and files for frequently used pages on the DEL website.

Teaching Strategies *GOLD*®

- *GOLD*®
 - Teachers and Administrators can access free short videos to help *GOLD*® users use this tool. Topics include:
 - Learn how to change or reset Teacher passwords [here](#).
 - Find out how to upload photos and videos in *GOLD*® [here](#).
 - Explore the Support and Resource Library to find answers to common questions and locate resources to help complete the assessment process [here](#).
 - If you need *GOLD*® assistance, or have an issue related to the ELMS to *GOLD*® data feed, email del.wa@teachingstrategies.com. If you cc elms@del.wa.gov, we will track follow-up.
 - For generic *GOLD*® assistance only, such as help with your login, you may use the email above or call 1-866-736-5913 between 4:00 AM and 6:00 PM Pacific Time.
- *GOLD*® Interrater Reliability (IRR)
 - Lead teachers must complete the *Teaching Strategies GOLD*® IRR certification online within six months of hire and renew every three years thereafter.
- *GOLDplus*®
 - Teachers in ECEAP classrooms that use the Creative Curriculum® now have access to *GOLDplus*®. This added feature helps teachers plan intentional learning experiences that support every child’s development and learning and save time. You can begin exploring the features of *GOLDplus*® in the Frequently Asked Questions document [here](#). For more information or questions, please contact your DEL Pre-K Specialist.
 - DEL will provide *GOLDplus*® training via webinar in the fall. Additional guidance will be in future Reminders and Links. You can find free support, video tutorials, and companion articles at the Teaching Strategies new *GOLDplus*® support page [here](#).
 - To access *GOLDplus*®:
 1. Login to your *GOLD*® account [here](#).
 2. Go to the “Planning” tab.
 3. Select “*GOLDplus*®” from the drop-down menu.
 - Select the *GOLDplus*® topic and link below to access videos and self-help articles to support your use of *GOLDplus*®:
 - Review video tutorials on Weekly Planning in *GOLDplus*® and Teaching and Assessing While Using an *Intentional Teaching* Experience [here](#).
 - Learn how to set up your weekly plans and reorder the times of day within the template to reflect your classroom schedule [here](#).
 - Explore how to add or remove a Study and At-a-Glance content from any of the Teaching Guides from *The Creative Curriculum*® for Preschool [here](#).

DEL ECEAP Trainings

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 6-7, 2016 – 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM, Lower Columbia College, Longview, WA
- September 15-16, 2016 – 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM, Chelan Douglas Child Services, Wenatchee, WA (participants need to bring their own laptop)
- October 3-4, 2016 – 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM, Educational Service District 101, Spokane, WA
- October 13-14, 2016 – 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM, Wilburton Instructional Service Center, Bellevue, WA
- Register using this [link](#)

Creative Curriculum® for Teachers

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.

- September 12-13, 2016 – ESD 123, Pasco, WA
- October 11-12, 2016 – Longview Community College, Longview, WA
- October 24-25, 2016 – Wilburton Instructional Service Center (WISC), Bellevue, WA
- October 26-27, 2016 – Marysville School District Board Room, Marysville, WA
- Register using this [link](#)

Families Moving Forward Facilitator Training

This is for staff who will deliver Families Moving Forward, a DEL curriculum on executive function, to parents and caregivers of ECEAP children, required for Full Day ECEAP sites and optional for other models. The series includes six sections that can be used in multiple formats.

- September 14, 2016 – 8:15 AM to 4:00 PM, ESD 123, Pasco, WA
- September 19, 2016 – 8:15 AM to 4:00 PM, Everett Community College, Everett, WA
- September 29, 2016 – 8:15 AM to 4:00 PM, Capitol Events Center, Tumwater, WA
- Register using this [link](#)

Early Achievers MERIT Applications Overview Webinar

This webinar is for the Site/Contact Manager at your Head Start or ECEAP site and you are participating in Early Achievers on the HS/ECEAP Pathway. We will “walk through” the necessary steps in MERIT to help ensure you are familiar with the Level 3, as well as the Request for On-Site Evaluation application. We will also cover your role in managing the ‘Employees Information’ tab, as well as the ‘Account Management’ tab. New Primary and Secondary Early Achievers contacts are highly encouraged to attend, and MERIT users who have access to the ‘Grantee/Contractor’ tab are also welcome.

- September 15, 2016 – 9:00 AM
 - Register using this [link](#)
- November 3, 2016 – 9:00 AM
 - Register using this [link](#)
- For questions regarding Early Achievers, send an e-mail to minnette.mason@del.wa.gov or call (360) 407-3685.

Training for ELMS Administrators

This free one-day training is for ELMS Administrators who will be the ELMS super-users for their ECEAP contractor. You may also want to sign up for the Eligibility and Enrollment Training (below) on the day after this training.

- September 20, 2016 – 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM, Kent, WA
- Register using this [link](#)

Eligibility and Enrollment Trainings

DEL is offering 1-day Eligibility and Enrollment trainings in Summer and Fall of 2016! This training is designed for staff who review and verify eligibility information for ECEAP families, and who enroll families into the program. Participants will get ELMS training, Performance Standards review, real-life scenarios, and a chance to ask questions with the presenters.

- September 21, 2016 – Green River College, Kent, WA
- September 22, 2016 – ESD 105, Yakima, WA
- Register using this [link](#)

Early Achievers Orientation Webinar

This orientation is an overview of Early Achievers, including the components covered in the rating, and the role of the Head Start grantee or ECEAP contractor. Participants will gain a deeper understanding of Washington's quality rating and improvement system (QRIS) and also have an opportunity for Q & A. Attending an orientation is required for those assigned as the Primary QRIS contact; but the information provided is helpful to anyone who wants to know more about Early Achievers.

- October 6, 2016 – 9:00 AM
- For questions regarding Early Achievers, send an e-mail to minnette.mason@del.wa.gov or call (360) 407-3685.
- Register using this [link](#)

Other Training Opportunities

Creative Curriculum®

Teaching Strategies provides online resources to help with successful implementation of *The Creative Curriculum®* [here](#). Topics include:

- Professional Support from YouTube
- Classroom Ideas from our Teaching Partners
- Ideas and Inspiration from the Teaching Strategies Blog
- Social Media Channels: Pinterest, Facebook, Twitter
- Online Discussions with the Teaching Strategies Community
- Support for Online Training

Teaching Strategies GOLD®

- The free *Teaching Strategies GOLD®* Basic Course is available to Contractor staff with a *GOLD®* username can access. 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
- *GOLD®* “How-To” [Videos](#) walk you through topics such as changing or resetting teacher passwords, entering checkpoints for multiple children, uploading photos and videos, using the weekly planning form, and using the *Teaching Strategies GOLD®* documentation app.
- *GOLD®* Administrators and Teachers can access free [online support](#) including a variety of tips and training to support positive child outcomes.

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.

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.

Resources

Racial Equity

Black and Hispanic kids get lower quality Pre-K

This [article](#) indicates that the average black preK-4 student is in a classroom that, in terms of quality, is .55 standard deviations below the average white student. In fact, all racial groups are in below-average pre-K except whites.

Demand for Multilingual Teachers

The national demand for more multilingual teachers is prompting policymakers to explore ways of helping paraprofessionals surmount the financial, academic, bureaucratic, and linguistic obstacles they face. This [brief](#) aims to identify both opportunities and challenges at getting more multilingual paraprofessionals to full teacher certification in the U.S.

Webinar on High-Quality Early Learning for Dual-Language Learners

This [webinar](#) presents an opportunity to learn about updates and approaches that can help ensure high-quality early learning for dual-language learners. You will hear from national experts and State leaders about how their approaches to early learning and development standards have helped improve program standards, assessment design and implementation, and professional development. The webinar will be held on September 8, 2016, from 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM (Eastern Daylight Time).

Health

Breastfeeding Webinar Series

The Public Health Breastfeeding Webinar Series promotes promising practices and share lessons learned from the Reducing Breastfeeding Disparities through Peer and Professional Support Project. With a focus on identifying public health solutions and promoting equity in breastfeeding for underserved communities, themes covered throughout the series will include:

- Creating continuity of care in the community,
- Engaging and retaining hard to reach groups,
- Ensuring sustainability through billing, and
- Building sustainability through policy, systems and environmental changes.

Visit breastfeeding.naccho.org to get information on upcoming dates and topics in the Public Health Breastfeeding Webinar Series.

Build Capacity to Heal Communities

This [article](#) explores how residents of one Washington community came together to solve a problem in their neighborhood. Using the Self-Healing Community Model, Cowlitz County made significant changes on some of the most intractable problems many communities face. Their work demonstrates that building strong and resilient cultures in communities works.

Impact of Housing on Children

This [study](#) shows children who spent the most time in neglected houses and neighborhoods fared the worst and were more likely to test positive for lead poisoning. It also showed that poor housing conditions were linked to higher rates of child abuse and familial instability, which are known to hurt kindergarten performance.

Early Education

Back to School Tips

The U.S. Department of Education has some [great tips](#) on what you can do to help get this year off to a great start. Research shows that parents who play an active role in their child's education have huge impact on their success. Make sure you're ready to make this school year the best one yet.

Numerical Sense

This [research](#) shows that humans and other animals have a basic numerical sense. Experiments have found that toddlers will routinely reach for the row of M&Ms that has the most candies. And other research has demonstrated that even infants only a few months old comprehend relative size.

Resource Library

Explore this [resource library](#), a curated collection of tools, information, and examples of promising practices, which is meant to inform and support your efforts to increase access and to improve the quality of programs for school-age children. Learn more about key topics in out-of-school time, including systems-building, quality improvement, family engagement, and professional development.

Webinar on the Science of Self-Regulation

The Tribal Early Childhood Research Center recorded a [webinar](#) on The Science of Self-Regulation with Dr. Clancy Blair. This webinar discusses what self-regulation is, why it matters and how to measure it.

Family Support

Study on Parenting Practices and Effective Practices

The National Academies of Medicine released a new consensus study, [Parenting Matters: Supporting Parents of Children Ages 0–8](#). The study reviews research on parenting practices and identifies effective practices. The report also recommends ways agencies and others can support interventions that help more parents learn about effective parenting practices. Administration for Children and Families (ACF) will use its findings to inform policy and, ultimately, better support the families and young children that they serve.

Public Policy

Children with Special Needs

This [article](#) takes a look at the Haring Center’s Experimental Education Unit (EEU) and their partnership with the City of Seattle to demonstrate how the city’s new preschool model can effectively include young children with special needs. For the 2016-17 school year, the EEU will provide services for the Seattle Preschool Program, ECEAP and special education in one classroom as part of a pilot program.

Early Childhood Systems Building Resource Guide

The Child Care State Capacity Building Center published a new [Early Childhood Systems Building Resource Guide](#). This online tool is designed to support Child Care and Development Fund leaders and their partners in their pursuit of state systems building initiatives.

The Solution is Early Childhood Education

This opinion [article](#) by Arne Duncan, Secretary of Education, talks about how many children entering kindergarten are already lagging behind. He calls for leaders to articulate a vision that supports our families, the middle class and their aspirations for our nation's future by calling for major national solutions for early learning. A major investment in early childhood education in this country is long overdue.