

ECEAP Converted Slots and Program Supports

2022 Decision Package

The Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) is Washington State's pre-kindergarten program that prepares 3- and 4-year-old children from families furthest from opportunity for success in school and in life. With the passage of the Fair Start for Kids Act (SB 5237, 2021), ECEAP entitlement has been expanded and the deadline for meeting entitlement set at the 2026-27 school year.



In order to make meaningful progress toward that entitlement, the Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) needs the following key investments:

✔ Part Day to School Day Conversion of Slot Types

DCYF and legislative modeling assumes that, at entitlement, children will be served in School Day or Working Day slots. These slot options are more beneficial to working families, and a growing number of ECEAP contractors are asking to convert Part Day slots into longer slots.

DCYF requests converting 1/3 of the 10,387 currently funded Part Day slots to School Day and Working Day at 85% and 15%, respectively (2,077 slots in FY 23). DCYF will ask for further conversion of slots in the next biennial budget cycle as well.

✔ Program Quality Support Funding

Since 2015, private funding has covered ECEAP curriculum, assessments, and training, but this funding ended in 2021. Combined with increases in annual ECEAP costs, this means that DCYF can no longer cover essential program components (Teaching Strategies Gold child assessments, researched-based curriculum, online professional development, Mobility Mentoring family supports tool, and, ReadyRosie – the nationally recognized family engagement tool and framework) without a funding increase.

Without this, the field would need to purchase services and materials out of their own budgets, and current reimbursement rates are insufficient for contractors to cover this new expense. These program supports are critical to ensuring the outcomes ECEAP has been so successful in attaining for children.

DCYF STRATEGIC PRIORITY ALIGNMENT

- ✔ Eliminate racial disproportionalities and advance racial equity
- ✔ Create a high-quality integrated B-8 system
- ✔ Improve quality and intention of our practice
- ✔ Improve quality and availability of provider services

COSTS

\$0.4 MILLION 22-23 BIENNIUM
\$10 MILLION 23-25 BIENNIUM



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES



The ECEAP expansion supports the Governor's Results Washington goal area and statewide priority of World Class Education. This package also supports DCYF agency goals:



EDUCATION

ECEAP is a key factor that increases kindergarten readiness and closes the opportunity gap across all demographic groups. Converting Part Day slots to School Day slots gives children and families access to comprehensive programming and high-quality classrooms and education services.



HEALTH

ECEAP's high-quality health coordination services ensure children are up to date on critical health services such as well child exams, screenings, and immunizations. ECEAP's education services screen, refer, and track developmental growth of children throughout their time in ECEAP.



RESILIENCE

ECEAP-participating children and youth are supported by healthy relationships with adults and parents. Caregivers are supported to meet their needs, and families are economically secure.

Contact

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