

Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) Agenda

Date: April 14, 2026

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Agenda

9:30 – 9:35 a.m. | Welcome and Virtual Meeting Protocols

9:35 – 10 a.m. | ELAC Committee Business

The ELAC Executive Committee will open the meeting by going through the regular committee business, including reviewing meeting minutes, State Agency/Partner and Regional Coalition updates, and the Feedback Loop document.

10 – 10:40 a.m. | Early Learning Budget and Legislative Updates

Members will receive an update on what's on top for early learning this legislative session, including budget considerations and potential impacts on early learning programs.

10:40 – 11:20 a.m. | ECEAP Expansion Topic

DCYF will share updates about the long-term plans for ECEAP expansion.

11:20 – 11:30 a.m. | Break

11:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. | Staff Qualifications Workgroup Updates

As part of [HB 1648](#), DCFY has been tasked with establishing a Staff Qualifications Workgroup to help improve qualifications requirements and the verification process. Members will receive an update on the establishment of this workgroup and next steps.

12 – 1 p.m. | Coordinated Recruitment and Enrollment (CRE): DCFY, CCA of WA, OSPI, and AESD

Inform members about the work of Coordinated Recruitment and Enrollment, a statewide initiative focused on informed family choice.

1 p.m. | Closing Remarks and Adjourn



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

Executive Committee

Dr. Brian Knowles – ELAC Member

Hanna Bruning – Regional Advisor Representative

Tanya Hutton – Regional Advisor Representative

VACANT – ELAC Member

DCYF Staff

Marlene White – marlene.white@dcyf.wa.gov

Erin Kerrigan – erin.kerrigan@dcyf.wa.gov

For general inquiries, please email: dcyf.communityengagement@dcyf.wa.gov

Purpose

To build a comprehensive early learning system, ELAC will advise DCYF, engage in open dialogue to raise timely issues and diverse priorities, deliberate on and influence state and local policies and programs, and actively support stronger state and local connections.

Essential Racial Equity Questions

- Is this policy, decision or practice good for kids, families and early learning educators of color?
- Do some kids, families and early learning educators benefit more or less than others?
- Do kids, families and early learning educators of color have access, and if not, why?
- What data and information is missing?
- Are there any unintended consequences?

Community Agreements

ELAC is committed to creating a safe, respectful space where all voices are heard without judgment or censorship. Questions and input are welcomed, and active listening is essential as we work together to support whole child outcomes for Washington families. We share responsibility for one another's learning. To support this, all participants agree to:

- Be Present & Engaged
- Be Forward Thinking
- Commit to the WHY? the WHAT? And the HOW?
- W.A.I.T. (Why am I Talking/ Why aren't I Talking?)
- Eliminate Power Dynamics

- Listen for Understanding
- Be a Communication Conduit to Various Communities
- Do Unto Others as You Would Have Them Do Unto You
- Collective Sense-Making Before Decision-Making
- Be Comfortable with Messy Conversations
- Be an Advocate for and an Agent of Change
- Be Solution Focused
- Impact Over Intent, and Repair if Necessary
- Experience Discomfort
- Speak Your Truth
- Be Open to Non-Closure