



## Joint ELAC and Provider Supports Subcommittee Meeting December 3, 2024 Early Learning Updates

### Electronic Attendance State System Winter 2025 Updates

The updates below are coming to the state's electronic attendance system Winter 2025.

#### What's New for Providers?

##### **Maintenance:**

- Electronic Attendance is getting a new "look and feel" for its user interface. **KinderConnect** and **KinderSign** will function the same but will have a slightly different appearance.

##### **Enhancement:**

- The **KinderSmart** Registration Form will be more conveniently located at the top of the Sponsor Detail screen.
- **KinderConnect** Announcements and Messages will be more prominently displayed on the home screen.
- Resetting a forgotten password: **KinderConnect** will now send a One-Time Password to the email associated with the user, ensuring additional security for a provider's account.

##### **Resources:**

- The Electronic Attendance System Manual will be updated to reflect the maintenance and enhancement features.
- Look for [new and updated resources](#) available on DCYF's Electronic Attendance System Training and Support web page for all system users, including child care providers and families.

#### What's New for Families?

**KinderSmart** application will function the same but have a slightly different appearance.

#### What do providers and families need to be prepared for during the update Winter 2025?

- Be ready for the system to be down overnight in Winter 2025 – specific date to be determined. **KinderConnect**, **KinderSign**, and **KinderSmart** will be unavailable during the planned outage.
- We anticipate an extended maintenance upgrade window that will take several hours. Specific time information will be provided on the **KinderConnect** home screen closer to the scheduled date.
- If you need to sign children in and out of care while the system is down, keep paper records and input them into **KinderConnect** when the system is available again, as per [Procedure 404 Electronic Attendance-Internet or System is Unavailable](#). Please remember to add a note, "System down for upgrade" to the added records in **KinderConnect**.

#### What do providers and families need to do on or after Winter 2025?

Both **KinderSign** and **KinderSmart** applications (apps) need to be updated after the Electronic Attendance System upgrade in Winter 2025.

- **KinderSign** and **KinderSmart** apps will not work with the upgraded system until the app has been updated.
- The new updates will not be available through your app store until the system upgrade is complete in Winter 2025.



## Washington State Department of **CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES**

- For Providers: The **KinderSign** app for the provider-supplied tablet will need to be updated in your application store (either **Google Play Store** or **Apple App Store**).
- If families delete the **KinderSmart** app instead of updating through their app store, they may need to re-register their app using the **KinderSmart** Registration Form, located on the Sponsor Detail screen in your **KinderConnect** account.
- For Sponsors (Families): For those who use a smartphone to sign children in and out of care, the **KinderSmart** app will need to be updated in the parent's/guardian's application store (either Google Play Store or Apple App Store).

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### **Access and Living Wage Updates**

The Washington State Legislature has tasked DCYF to submit an implementation plan to expand access to Washington's mixed delivery child care system (ESSB [5950](#) Section 229(31)).

The Early Care and Education Access and Living Wage Proviso Implementation Plan will outline DCYF's plan to lower family contributions to high-quality early care and education at no more than 7% of a family's income (a sustainable amount for a family) and uplift the early care and education workforce with a living wage and benefits.

DCYF will submit the Implementation Plan by June 30, 2025. Because the full implementation plan is not available until after the 2025 Legislative session, DCYF is preparing a Status Update Report on the plan's progress, to be available soon. For more information about the Early Care and Education Access and Living Wage Proviso work, please visit [this website](#). For questions about the Early Care and Education Access and Living Wage Proviso, please contact DCYF's Government Affairs team at [dcyf.govaffairs@dcyf.wa.gov](mailto:dcyf.govaffairs@dcyf.wa.gov).