WASHINGTON
EARLY ACHIEVERS
PREPARING CHILDREN FOR SUCCESS IN SCHOOL

Early Achievers Participant Resources and Supports

The Department of Early Learning is dedicated to ensuring participants in Early Achievers have access to a variety of resources and supports to assist with their quality improvement goals.

Training – Foundational trainings on concepts related to best practices

The Early Achievers Professional Training Series is offered for free to the Primary and Secondary Contacts at participating facilities. The series is comprised of six trainings designed to provide a general understanding of Early Achievers, cultural competency, school readiness, and other core concepts. Three of the six trainings are offered in an online format and three are traditional, in-person trainings. In order to ensure access for all participants, all trainings are available in-person and in multiple languages.

Coaching – Personalized support for continuous quality improvement

Coaching is available to all facilities throughout their participation. Coaches are highly-trained professionals with strong backgrounds in early learning who help participants successfully navigate Early Achievers through targeted, ongoing assistance and support. Coaching support is customized to meet each facility's needs and may include:

- Assistance with identifying quality improvement goals and support in improving children's outcomes and preparing them for success in school.
- Technical support with Early Achievers applications, including MERIT help.
- Resources and materials related to the Early Achievers quality standard areas and assessment tools.
- Assistance in preparing for the on-site evaluation.
- Guidance in understanding and using Early Achievers rating and assessment data in order to continue to improve quality for children and families.
- Developing a Quality Improvement Plan based on participants' unique needs and priorities.
- Accessing resources to support achievement of goals.

Quality Improvement Awards – Monetary awards to recognize and support growth in quality

Rated participants that serve non-school-age children receiving state child care subsidies are eligible to receive a Quality Improvement Award. These awards recognize achievement and

Washington State Department of
Early Learning

support facilities to implement quality improvement goals, as outlined in the Quality Improvement Plan. Award amounts range from $1,000 to $9,000, depending on facility type and rating level.

Tiered Subsidy Reimbursement – Incentives for providers accepting state subsidy

Providers that participate in Early Achievers and provide services to children and families accessing Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) subsidies may be eligible to receive higher subsidy reimbursements.

- Early Achievers participants that have not yet been rated receive a 2% increase to the WCCC subsidy base rate for their first 30 months of participation.
- Facilities that rate Levels 3 – 5 are eligible to earn higher incentives added to the WCCC subsidy base rate. These incentives range from 4% to 20%, depending on facility type and rating level.

Scholarships – Financial aid for participant professional development

Scholarships are available to all staff members of participating Early Achievers facilities to support their ongoing professional development goals. There are two types of scholarships available:

- The Early Achievers Grant, administered by the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges, is available for child care professionals working toward Associates Degrees in Early Childhood Education (ECE) and state-stackable ECE certificates.
- Child Care Aware of Washington Scholarships are available for child care professions working toward Bachelor's Degrees in Early Childhood Education.

Needs-Based Grants – Financial support for quality improvement efforts

Needs-based grants are available for qualifying Early Achievers participants to overcome barriers to achieving a Level 3 quality rating. Grants may be used toward the purchase of:

- Classroom materials to improve scores on the ERS or CLASS
- Substitute time
- Curriculum development and instructional materials
- Other supplies or equipment that improves program quality

Washington State Department of
Early Learning