

# The LOVIT Way Program Evaluation Process

## Overview

### Purpose of this Guide

Tribal early care and education programs have the option to participate in an alternate quality recognition process, The LOVIT Way. This optional alternative meets the legislative mandate set out by RCW 43.216.085, sec. 12. This document outlines the process and how it aligns with the Early Achievers quality recognition process.

This guide is an addendum to the Early Achievers Operating Guidelines, which provides additional comprehensive information about Early Achievers participation. Please refer to the [Early Achievers Operating Guidelines](#) for important information on Early Achievers compliance.

### What is The LOVIT Way Program Evaluation Process (PEP)?

In 2016, the Aboriginal Head Start Association of British Columbia, an early intergenerational wellness, professional development, and cultural resource provider, began the process of creating the LOVIT Way Program Evaluation Process (PEP). The purpose was to support evaluation and planning in their Aboriginal Head Start (AHS) programs as existing tools were not meeting their needs and programs were not benefitting from evaluation processes.

The LOVIT Way stands for **L**earning to **O**bserve, **V**alue, **I**nspire and **T**ransform. The LOVIT Way Program Evaluation Process (PEP) is a culturally-sensitive evaluation tool based on 33 questions that reflect the [Aboriginal Head Start Principles and Guidelines](#).

The LOVIT Way PEP became available in 2020 and was recommended as an alternate assessment by the Indian Policy Early Learning (IPEL) committee that supported a piloting of the LOVIT Way. After a robust pilot and advisory group input, The LOVIT Way PEP was adopted as an option for tribal programs in 2023.

To learn more about The LOVIT Way PEP, visit the DCYF website [Early Achievers Supports and Resources](#) page. If you have additional questions, please contact [QRIS@dcyf.wa.gov](mailto:QRIS@dcyf.wa.gov).

### How does The LOVIT Way PEP fit into the Early Achievers Quality Standards?

Tribal participants still engage in every aspect of the Early Achievers continuous quality improvement journey and receive recognition points for each of the standard areas during a quality recognition cycle. The LOVIT Way PEP is an optional alternative program evaluation process that replaces the Learning Environment quality standard area.



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Learn about each of the Quality Standard areas and how points are awarded in the [Early Achievers Quality Standards and Criteria booklet](#). For more information on Early Achievers participation requirements, timelines, supports and incentives, coaching services, and more, please refer to the [Early Achievers Participant Operating Guidelines](#).

### What does a Quality Recognition Cycle look like using The LOVIT Way PEP?

A Quality Recognition Cycle is a 3-year cycle of continuous quality improvement; each component is designed to build upon the other. You earn points throughout the cycle by submitting components for review and feedback. Throughout the cycle, sites are supported with coaching services. If you opt to use The LOVIT Way PEP, you will conduct the Program Evaluation Process with your team, rather than complete a Program Profile and Video Highlights.

Recognition Components- supported with coaching services:

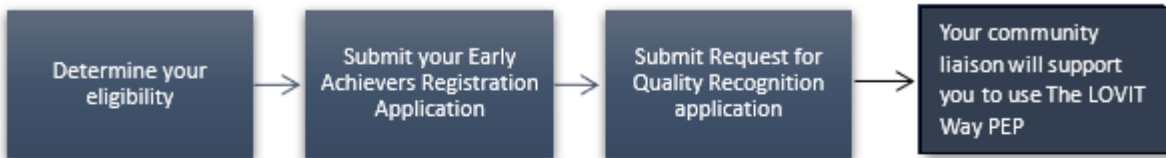


### Getting Started with The LOVIT Way PEP

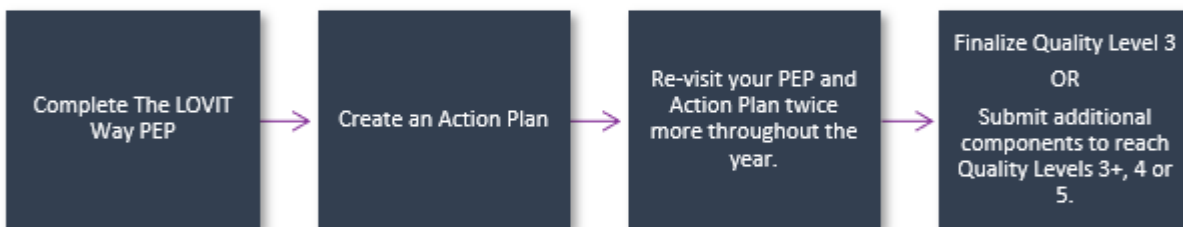
Below is a guide to help you get started on your Early Achievers The LOVIT Way PEP journey.

- If you operate a **licensed or certified** facility, you are required to complete steps 1-2 below and verify your and your staff's education (see [WAC 110-300-0100](#)).
- If you provide **state subsidized** care, you are required to complete steps 1-2 below and reach a quality level of 3.
- If you participate in **ECEAP or Head Start**, you are required to complete steps 1-2. As you are also required to reach a level 4, you will need to complete actions beyond steps 1-2.

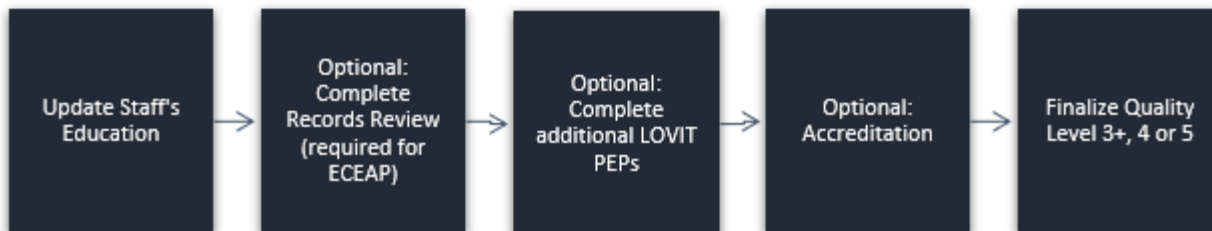
Step 1: Registering for Early Achievers



Step 2: Reaching Levels 2-3



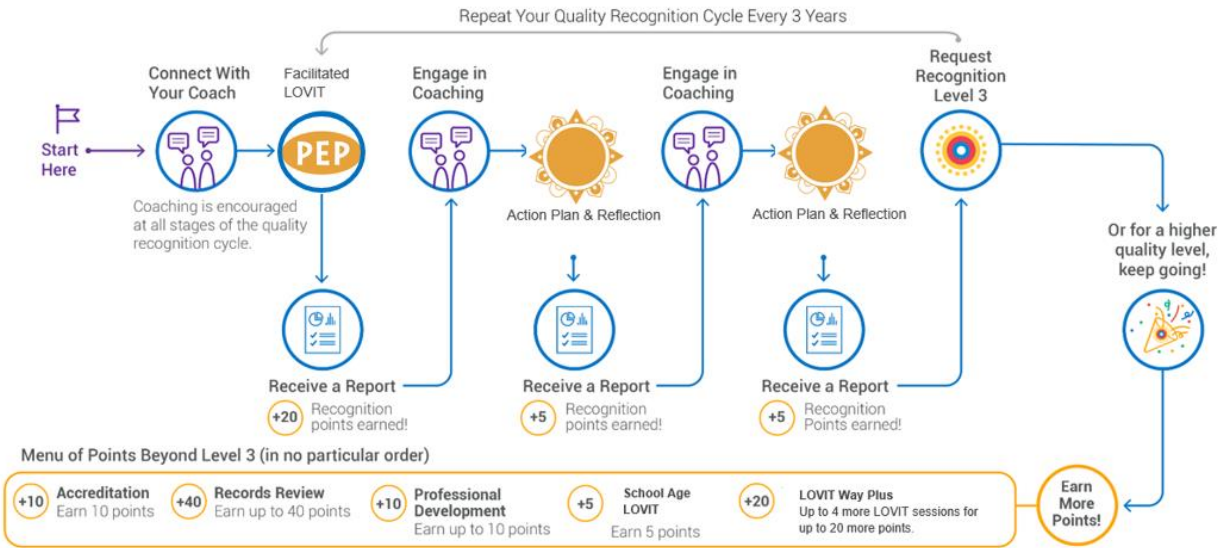
Step 3: Reaching Levels 3+ and beyond



**TIP:** After steps 2 and 3, you can finalize your quality level and receive your rating. You have up to 3 years to complete your next quality recognition cycle. If you have questions, please work directly with your coach.

## The LOVIT Way PEP Quality Recognition Components

Throughout your Early Achievers cycle there are opportunities to complete several Quality Recognition components using The LOVIT Way PEP. If you receive state subsidy or your program offers ECEAP services, some of these components are required.



## Complete Your Facilitated LOVIT Way PEP

If you opt to use The LOVIT Way PEP in your program, your Early Achievers primary contact will attend a virtual timeline planning meeting scheduled with their coach, community liaison, and Tribal quality recognition specialist (QRS) who serves as the LOVIT Way facilitator. Together, you will complete The LOVIT Way Quality Recognition Planning Tool. The timeline plan will include a rough schedule that spreads activities out over the three-year cycle and places the program in the queue for an in-person, facilitated LOVIT Way PEP.

Your in-person LOVIT Way PEP will be scheduled to take place over a two- to three-day period:

- Day 1: facilitator visits program according to plan and begins LOVIT Way meeting with program representatives.
- Day 2: LOVIT Way meeting with program representatives continues.
- Day 3: (if needed) LOVIT Way meeting with program representatives continues.

The LOVIT Way PEP involves all members of the program community (staff, parents, families, elders, and other relevant community members) in valuing and documenting their program strengths, challenges, and goals and for continued accountability and support in providing quality programming. When planning for your PEP, you'll want to make sure your program community is invited to attend.

When your LOVIT Way PEP is completed, the Early Achievers primary contact will enter the summary scores and PEP Action Plan into CECL (for planning purposes only; scores will be kept confidential and do not determine how many Early Achievers points you receive). The Tribal Quality Recognition Specialist (QRS)/LOVIT Way facilitator will review and approve your summary, which results in an award of twenty (20) points.

## Getting Started on your PEP Action Plan

Part of your LOVIT Way PEP includes prioritizing your program goals and creating an Action Plan. You will work with your coach to implement the Program Evaluation Process (PEP) Action Plan that was developed during the facilitated LOVIT Way in-person session.

## Revisit your PEP Action Plan and Goals

In collaboration with your Tribal Quality Recognition Specialist, and based on your initial timeline meeting, you will conduct a virtual PEP action plan update and reflection meeting with your program staff a minimum of two (2) more times throughout your Quality Recognition Cycle.

After each virtual visit, the Early Achievers primary contact will update the PEP Action Plan in CECI. Your QRS will review and approve each update, which results in an award of five (5) additional points each time.

Once you have revisited your Action Plan twice, you are eligible for Level 3. Programs going beyond Level 3 can choose to progress through additional PEP Steps worth 5 points each and require a virtual LOVIT Way PEP Action plan session, in alignment with the program timeline plan. The schedule depends on your desired recognition level.

School-age programming participation in the LOVIT Way PEP process is worth 5 points and can be requested once 30 points have been earned.

## Finalize Your Quality Level

Once you have engaged in The LOVIT Way PEP quality recognition components and have reached the points needed for the quality level you want to achieve, you can finalize your quality level in MERIT. You can find this information in your [Quality Framework sub-tab in MERIT](#).

To be eligible to finalize a Quality Level, your early learning program must:

1. Be licensed, certified, or certified for payment only.
  - a. If you have a closed license, you are not eligible to finalize your quality level.
2. Providers receiving subsidy payments must finalize a Quality Level 3 or higher within 30 months of Early Achievers registration. To do this, you will need to complete the follow components to finalize your Quality Level 3:
  - a. Complete the in-person facilitated LOVIT Way PEP and Action Plan
  - b. Revisit and update your Action Plan a minimum of two (2) times throughout your quality recognition cycle.
3. If you provide ECEAP services, you must reach a level 4 or 5 within 24 months of your Early Achievers enrollment. To do this, you will need to complete the follow components and earn at least 70 points to finalize your Quality Level 4:
  - a. Complete the LOVIT Way PEP and Action Plan
  - b. Revisit and update your Action Plan a minimum of two (2) times throughout your quality recognition cycle.
  - c. Submit evidence for Records Review

- d. Consider conducting additional virtual LOVIT Way or virtual PEP Action plan sessions depending on and in alignment with the program timeline planning meeting.

See the [Early Achievers Quality Standards and Criteria Guide](#) for a list of activities that will help you to reach your quality levels.