

ECEAP Allowable Enrollment

This guidance is intended for staff responsible for enrolling families into the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) considering the new changes from SHB 1351, effective July 1, 2025.

PAO-39 relates to additional children allowed for enrollment, including children who turn three years old after Aug. 31 of the school year. These children are in the allowable category and may enroll in ECEAP as space is available if they meet all other standard eligibility criteria.

Enrollment Criteria for ECEAP Early Entry Children:

- The child turns three **after** Aug. 31 of the school year.
- The child meets the standard eligibility criteria (PAO-38(1)(a-f)), including:
 - From a family with income at or below 36% of the state median income (SMI).
 - Qualified by a school district for special education services under RCW 28A.155.020. All children with a school district Individualized Education Program (IEP) meet this requirement.
 - Experiencing homelessness as defined by the federal McKinney-Vento Education of Homeless Children and Youth Assistance Act.
 - Has participated in Early Head Start (EHS) or a successor federal program providing comprehensive services for children from birth through two years of age, the Early Support for Infants and Toddlers program (ESIT) or received class C developmental services, the birth to three Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (B3 ECEAP), or the Early Childhood Intervention and Prevention Services program (ECLIPSE).
 - Is an Indian child, as defined by WAC 110-425-0030, and at or below 100% SMI.
 - From a family with income that exceeds 36% of the SMI (ESE) and impacted by specific prioritization factors identified by DCYF that are linked by research to school performance, within the limits set by DCYF and the Washington State Legislature.

Important:

- Prioritize eligible children for available ECEAP slots first.
- Children in the allowable category may enroll as space is available. They are not part of the entitlement population.
- Do not hold slots for children who have not turned three years old and/or cannot attend at the time of enrollment in ELMS.

If you have any questions or need case-by-case enrollment guidance, please contact your CQI Specialist for support.



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

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Early Learning Division | Approved for distribution by Jen Cassarino, ECEAP Sr. Administrator