

# Using *SmartTeach*<sup>™</sup> and GOLD<sup>®</sup> in ECEAP 2024-25

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## All ECEAP Children Are Assessed Quarterly Using GOLD<sup>®</sup> within *SmartTeach*<sup>™</sup>

This allows DCYF to report statewide ECEAP child assessment results and increases alignment with the Washington Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (WaKIDS). DCYF holds the GOLD<sup>®</sup> license for all ECEAP contractors.

In addition to GOLD<sup>®</sup>, all ECEAP contractors also have access to the following digital resources: The Creative Curriculum<sup>®</sup> Cloud, Professional Development Teacher Membership, and ReadyRosie. [Learn more about these \*SmartTeach\*<sup>™</sup> digital resources here.](#)

## DCYF Purchases ECEAP Child Portfolios

DCYF pays Teaching Strategies directly for child portfolios for your funded ECEAP slots.

- You may purchase additional child portfolios for non-ECEAP children from Teaching Strategies at the discounted DCYF rate of \$10.95 per slot; signature on the DCYF Data Sharing Agreement is required for the DCYF rate. If you need additional portfolios, visit <https://teachingstrategies.com/state/washington/del-form/>.
- You will receive a subscription agreement listing your total number of GOLD<sup>®</sup> Online child portfolios. For some contractors, this includes ECEAP slots and additional slots you purchase.

## ELMS to *SmartTeach*<sup>™</sup> Data Feed

Enter ECEAP site, class, lead teacher, and child data in **ELMS**. DCYF imports the data into GOLD<sup>®</sup> nightly. Do not manually enter ECEAP sites, classes, lead teachers, or children into GOLD<sup>®</sup>.

- Enter all changes in **ELMS** only.
- If you change anything in ELMS, like transferring a child between classes, it automatically updates GOLD<sup>®</sup>. *Changes made directly in GOLD will not be updated in ELMS. The integration is a one direction only from ELMS to GOLD.*
- When you exit a child in ELMS, their record will be archived in GOLD<sup>®</sup>.
  - Do not manually archive or delete portfolios for ECEAP children. Archiving is free and unlimited. It occurs automatically in GOLD<sup>®</sup> the day after you exit them in ELMS.
  - You must wait a week before unarchiving if you want to enroll them in a non-ECEAP class in GOLD<sup>®</sup>. If a child is already in GOLD<sup>®</sup> through the DCYF license with the same birthdate and name as in ELMS, the records will be matched automatically. The child's ECEAP information will be in the same portfolio as their earlier information. If the name or birthdate is different, you'll need to correct the original portfolio in GOLD<sup>®</sup> to allow the records to match.
- The Birth-5 ECEAP Funding Source will be updated before the end of each Checkpoint period. You may mark additional funding sources, but you never need to enter Birth-5 ECEAP as the funding source.

## ECEAP Contractor Responsibilities

- Analyze aggregate child assessment data to inform:
  - Teaching practices.
  - Curriculum decisions.
  - Professional development.
  - Program planning.
- Ensure lead teachers complete required training.



- Ensure lead teachers maintain interrater reliability certification.

## ECEAP Lead Teacher Responsibilities

- Complete online training to use GOLD® within six months of hire. (See “Training” below.)
- Obtain interrater reliability certification for GOLD® within six months of hire and every three years, thereafter. (See “Interrater Reliability” below.)
- Observe children throughout the school year and enter objective observation notes in the online version of GOLD® **or via the Teaching Strategies Teacher App available in app stores.**
  - “For some objectives, seeing a child perform a skill once is sufficient to make an informed decision. Other objectives need more evidence and documentation. There is no set number of observations or amount of documentation that must be collected in relation to each objective.” – *Objectives for Development and Learning*
- Rate all objectives within the following areas: Social Emotional, Physical, Language, Cognitive, Literacy, and Mathematics.
  - The remaining GOLD® areas of development and learning – Science and Technology, Social Studies, and the Arts – are optional.
- Finalize ratings in GOLD® by the following checkpoint dates for all children who attended class for at least three weeks before the checkpoint due date:
  - The Summer checkpoint for working day services only is due Aug. 15.
  - The Fall checkpoint is due Nov. 15.
  - The Winter checkpoint is due Mar. 15.
  - The Spring checkpoint is due June 15.
- Teachers must complete the Home Language Survey on all children by the child’s first checkpoint due date.
  - Use “N/A” only for non-verbal children in response to questions that ask what language the child uses when speaking. Do not use “N/A” to answer the question about what language adults use to speak to the child.
  - Use “only English” to indicate that the child speaks English only.
  - If indicated based on the Home Language Survey, teachers must assess children’s English language acquisition for each checkpoint period, using objectives 37 and 38.
  - Teachers must use the assessment data to plan to support children’s language and literacy acquisition.
- Teachers are encouraged, but not required, to assess Spanish-speaking children with the Spanish language and literacy objectives. These objectives should only be enabled for a child record if:
  - the child's primary or secondary language is Spanish; and
  - at least one teacher or team member for the child can complete the assessment process in the Spanish language.
- Ask your DCYF CQI Specialist if you have questions about these requirements for implementing GOLD®.

## Interrater Reliability

Lead teachers must complete GOLD® Preschool/Pre-K Interrater Reliability (IRR) Certification within six months of hire and every three years, thereafter. This strengthens the accuracy of the assessment data. There is no cost for the IRR certification process. [Refer to this support article for further instructions.](#)

## Accessing the Interrater Reliability Certification in Quorum

- Navigate to Quorum through the Develop Area of SmartTeach
- On the Quorum dashboard, on the GOLD® Interrater Reliability Certification tile, select View IRR Options:
  - For ECEAP: select the “GOLD® Preschool/Pre-K/Transitional Kindergarten Interrater Reliability Certification.”
  - For Early ECEAP: select the “GOLD® IT2 Interrater Reliability Certification.”
- **Note:** Before accessing the Spanish Interrater Reliability Certification, please ensure your SmartTeach language preference is set to Spanish.

## Achieving Interrater Reliability Certification

- To achieve certification, you must complete all five required Pretest Prep mini-modules and pass the corresponding Interrater Reliability (IRR) exam with a score of 80% or higher in each area. You may re-take each area as many rounds as is needed to pass. There are also optional area-specific modules, by accessing the Study More catalog available to users who would like a deeper dive before beginning a test and/or after finding out which areas they did not pass.
  - There are six areas in total: Social-Emotional, Physical, Language, Cognitive, Literacy, and Mathematics. You can think of the IRR test as having one main exam, or “round 1,” which all users must take, and additional area-specific subtests, or “round 2, 3, 4...”
  - If you exit the exam during round 1, i.e., before ever submitting any answers, you will land at the “Launch IRR Test” button when you return.
  - Once you submit your answers for round 1 of the exam, you will land at the Results page each time they return.
- The amount of time it takes to complete the process varies widely according to the individual and will likely take a minimum of three hours to complete.
- Teachers must score 80% to achieve certification.
- You may repeat the test as many times as necessary. If you are struggling to pass, continue to practice the skills, consult with your education coordinator, or use additional professional development courses for GOLD® in Quorum.
- Please print your certificate of completion and provide it to your supervisor.
- For new ECEAP Lead Teachers with IRR certification they obtained under a non-ECEAP account, please send a copy of your certificate to [elms@dcyf.wa.gov](mailto:elms@dcyf.wa.gov).
- If you have a teacher who previously completed their IRR certification through a non-ECEAP username and you would like the IRR certificate transferred to their current ECEAP username in SmartTeach, please email [del.wa@teachingstrategies.com](mailto:del.wa@teachingstrategies.com), include “ECEAP/ELMS Integration” in the subject line and your request with teacher userID details in the email body.

## Education/child development coordinators are encouraged to be “reliable” as well, so they can fully support their teaching staff in using GOLD®.

Lead teachers will satisfy the training requirements for GOLD® in the [2024-25 B-5 ECEAP Performance Standards](#), PDTR-11 Additional Required Training by Role, when they complete the following:

- The two free self-paced courses in Quorum in the *SmartTeach™* “Develop” area. Introducing *SmartTeach™* or *Introducción a SmartTeach™* and Objectives for Development and Learning or *Objetivos para el Desarrollo y el aprendizaje*.

- Complete IRR Certification titled:
  - For ECEAP: GOLD® Preschool/Pre-K/Transitional Kindergarten Interrater Reliability Certification.
  - For Early ECEAP: GOLD® IT2 Interrater Reliability Certification.
  - Or Certificación de confiabilidad del evaluador de GOLD® Edades mixtas (niños de 0 a 5 años).

## Teacher Logins in GOLD®

- Teachers have separate logins for ELMS and for GOLD®.
- For ECEAP, teacher usernames are FirstnameLastnameECEAP with no spaces or hyphens.
- A teacher may have more than one GOLD® login if they teach ECEAP and non-ECEAP children. If so, you may request information on how to link your accounts.
- Lead teachers must have an email address on their ELMS “Edit Staff” page in the Contact Information section, in the “Email- Office” field. This email address is automatically imported into GOLD® and is used by Teaching Strategies when necessary to contact teachers.

## Engaging and Partnering with Families

Part of the teacher’s role is to develop partnerships with families. Regular, ongoing communication with families helps support children’s learning at home and in the classroom.

- “Children feel secure when school and home are connected in positive and respectful ways. Developing a partnership with families will show that you value the role of families in their children’s education.”- *Volume 1: The Foundation (from The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool, Guided Edition)*
- Teachers can use the Engage Area to involve family members in the assessment process, keep family members up to date on their child’s development and learning, extend classroom learning at home, and convert observations shared by families into GOLD® documentation.
  - Contractors may choose to add accounts for family members or caregivers in the Engage Area and invite them via email (and optionally text message) to download the Teaching Strategies [Family App](#), which supports information sharing and two-way communication between home and school environments to help teachers strengthen family engagement efforts.

The Family Conference Form is an optional GOLD® resource. It is a great way for teachers to share assessment information with families and engage in collaborative goal setting. In fall 2024, you will find the Family Conference form in the Reports area.

## Technical Support from Teaching Strategies

- For simple issues, such as logins and general teacher questions about SmartTeach, you can call the dedicated **SmartTeach™** phone line for ECEAP at (844) 854-4653.
- Email [del.wa@teachingstrategies.com](mailto:del.wa@teachingstrategies.com) directly to resolve issues or [submit a case through the support portal](#). They respond Monday through Friday, 4 a.m. to 6 p.m. Pacific Time.
  - If you email [CC elms@dcyf.wa.gov](mailto:CC_elms@dcyf.wa.gov), DCYF can help track and ensure prompt responses.
  - Only send each issue once, so Teaching Strategies can respond efficiently.
  - Include “ECEAP/ELMS Integration” in the subject line, so your case is promptly directed to a

specialized team for resolution as well as a brief summary of the problem in your email subject (i.e., duplicate child).

- Be sure to include all details in the email body, such as name of the site, class, teacher, and, if applicable, child. For example, send the ELMS ID numbers for children who are missing from GOLD®, instead of just writing that children are missing. Please do not include Personally Identifiable Information (PII) in email correspondence.

## Resources

- All ECEAP classrooms have access to the following high-quality digital resources from Teaching Strategies. [Review this 1-page overview flyer with your team to learn more.](#)
  - [The Creative Curriculum® Cloud](#)
  - [ReadyRosie®](#)
  - [Professional Development Teacher Membership](#)
  - [GOLD®](#)
  - These resources will support and streamline your ability to create joyful, developmentally appropriate, play-based learning experiences for the children and families in your program!
- Staff with a login can access all GOLD® and **SmartTeach™** training features, including free courses, brief tutorials, webinars, and printable instruction guides.
  - Review the 2024-25 [SmartTeach™ ECEAP Administrator Checklist](#) and [SmartTeach™ ECEAP Teacher Checklist](#)
  - Easily find the support you need by browsing articles and videos in the [SmartTeach™ Support Portal](#).
    - [Review a video library](#) designed for both teachers and administrators.
  - Find out more about Getting Started with [ReadyRosie here](#) and sign up for [weekly ReadyRosie onboarding webinars](#).
  - [Register in advance](#) and attend Teaching Strategies ECEAP Office Hours to get answers to your specific questions *about any of your Teaching Strategies digital resources*.
  - [Register for upcoming webinars](#) for GOLD® users or access past webinars.
  - Subscribe to Product Implementation Support Emails for Teaching Strategies products, such as GOLD® and The Creative Curriculum® [here](#).
  - In *SmartTeach™*, select the “Develop” area to access Quorum and the free course *Objectives for Development and Learning (ODL 101)*. You’ll learn about the 38 objectives, the dimensions, and the progressions of development and learning. You can earn STARS credits for completion of this self-paced non-credit course.
  - Select the Resource Center button (the circle with a question mark in the upper right corner of your screen) within *SmartTeach™* to find additional support and resources, including recent product updates.
  - The [GOLD Guide for Teachers](#) offers detailed, screen-by-screen guidance for getting started, finalizing data, generating reports, and more. Note: your classes will be set up using the ELMS to GOLD® data transfer.
  - The [GOLD User Guide for Administrators](#) provides detailed, screen-by-screen guidance for administrator needs.

## SmartTeach™

SmartTeach will replace the MyTeachingStrategies platform in summer 2024 and will not impact or change the teacher experience within Teach or Assess. All documentation and checkpoints entered

prior to the change will not be affected.

Read the *SmartTeach™* FAQ [here](#).

- Click on the Resource Center button (grey circle with a question mark in the upper right of your screen) and select the Updates menu to read about all the recent enhancements that will streamline your workflows, reduce clicks, seamlessly connect curriculum and assessment, and give you more time back.
- Download the [new Teacher App](#) and start using it in all classrooms today. Click on the microphone icon to capture voice-to-text documentation quickly and efficiently.
- GOLD® has spell and grammar check in many text boxes, including Documentation.
- Contractors can create a variety of standard and customized reports in GOLD®, including:
  - Assessment Status
  - Documentation Status
  - Class Profile
  - Snapshot
  - Family Conference
  - Development and Learning
  - Individual Child
  - Report Card (for kindergarten and above)
  - Online Professional Development
  - Data Export
  - [Reports for Administrators](#)
  - [Generating Reports in Quorum](#)
- GOLD® Objectives for Development and Learning: Birth Through Third Grade are aligned with the [Washington State Early Learning and Development Guidelines: Birth through Five Years \(2012\)](#).