ECEAP: Built on National Research-Based Standards for High Quality Preschool

The Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) is committed to providing high quality, comprehensive, and equitable Birth-Pre-K services to families furthest from opportunity across Washington State. DCYF ECEAP commits to dismantling racism and building an equitable state-funded birth-preschool system in Washington.

ECEAP provides high-quality comprehensive services that focus on the whole child. This means integrated high-quality birth-preschool education, family support, parent involvement, and health, mental health, and nutrition services. This comprehensive approach is based on well-researched programs that save money by reducing special education and criminal justice costs, and increasing high school graduation rates and future employment prospects.

Researched-Based Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum and Assessment

Adult-child ratios align with national licensing recommendations for safety

ECEAP Rated 9 of 10 quality points by NIEER

74% of the 389 ECEAP sites were rated at Level 4 or 5 in state-quality standards

Notable gains that increase family stability and "future-orientated" thinking

Increasing access to health care services

Who We Serve

ECEAP serves children and families who are furthest from opportunity in Washington State – the children and families who are most frequently denied educational justice and access to safe and affordable housing and livelihoods. Eligibility for ECEAP is based on State Median Income (SMI) and research-based priority factors. The current SMI eligibility level for a family of four is $39,481.

- 82% of enrolled ECEAP families live at 110% Federal Poverty Level or lower.
- 87% of ECEAP children would be eligible for free lunch while 94% would be eligible for free and reduced lunch.
- 27% received some sort of child welfare involvement (over 4 years).
- Additionally, 63% of children enrolled in 2020-21 were children of color; 9% experienced homeless; 48% were dual-language learners; 11% of children were on an IEP; 11% experienced domestic violence; 17% of families reported experiencing mental health issues and 21% of parents completed schooling up to the 7th-12th grade with no diploma or GED.

ECEAP Expansion and Entitlement

ECEAP has grown from serving children in 1,000 slots at its inception to serving children in more than 15,500 slots in the 2022-23 academic year. Currently for the 2022-23 school year there are over 2,200 children on the ECEAP waiting list. State law requires ECEAP to serve all eligible children whose families choose to participate by the 2026-27 school year. The legislative forecast from the 2021 legislative session goes through entitlement in 2026-27. ECEAP received 500 slots for the 2021-22 school year and 1,076 expansion slots in 2022-23. To reach entitlement by 2026-27, ECEAP will need approximately 3,223 slots each year, thereafter.

Resources

Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program: **www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/early-learning-providers/eceap**
ECEAP Equity Page: **www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/early-learning-providers/eceap/equity**
Tribal ECEAP: **www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/early-learning-providers/eceap/tribal-eceap**
NIEER State of Preschool 2022: **https://nieer.org/the-state-of-preschool-yearbook-2022**
ECEAP Mobility Mentoring®: **https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article/149/1/e2020018473/183850**

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