Early Start Act and School Readiness

Before and after the Early Start Act

October 2019

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90% School Readiness

*Efforts to achieve a 90% statewide school readiness rate, eliminating race and income as predictors of school readiness.*
Getting to 90% Ready: Strategies

- >185% FPL
  - Not Ready
- 110%-185%
  - Not Ready
  - Expand ECEAP
- <=110% FPL
  - Math
  - Fix Dropoff
  - Baseline
Early Start Act 2015

• In June, 2015 the Early Start Act was approved by the legislature and signed into law by Governor Jay Inslee.

• The Early Start Act focuses on improving access to high-quality early learning opportunities in Washington as a key path to improving outcomes in young children and promoting strong school readiness.
Early Start Act History
Advocacy for Sustainability of Quality

- Focus on developing unity and shared buy in at content development stage
- Five corners approach:
  - Support from Governor in form of a budget proposal
  - 4 corners prime sponsors on bill (House D, House R, Senate D, Senate R)
  - 4 corners met with advocates throughout session
- Analysis of opportunities and threats to advancing racial equity; identification of specific policy and budgetary provisions
- Narrative of the delicate balance of resources and requirements
- Coordination among advocates to stay unified and share the load of lobbying and mobilization
Early Start Act Requirements

- All licensed child care providers serving non-school age children on subsidy will rate an Early Achievers Level 3-5 by 2020; all existing ECEAP providers will rate an Early Achievers Level 4-5 by March 2016 or begin remedial activities to rate a Level 4 by September 2016

- ECEAP will be available to all eligible children by the 2020-21 school year with part day, full school day, and extended day models (now 2022-23 school year)

- Creation of a single set of standards across licensing and ECEAP using Early Achievers as the framework for quality

- 12-month authorization for Working Connections Child Care to promote stability and high-quality

- Create assurances that early learning programs are available, supported and appropriate for diverse communities across the state
Essential Elements of High-Quality Early Learning

Support for Educators and Young Learners

Enabling Environment

High-Quality Instruction

Washington State Department of CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES
# ECEAP Slots

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<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Funded slots</strong></td>
<td>8,391</td>
<td>8,391</td>
<td>8,741</td>
<td>10,091</td>
<td>11,691</td>
<td>11,691</td>
<td>12,491</td>
<td>13,491</td>
<td>14,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Cumulative enrollment</strong></td>
<td>9,465</td>
<td>9,298</td>
<td>9,823</td>
<td>11,358</td>
<td>13,336</td>
<td>13,441</td>
<td>14,358</td>
<td>15,511</td>
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</table>
**Pipeline to Rating: 2014**

**Participation by Licensed Providers**
Centers are above target while Family Homes are below*

- 2,211 licensed providers (Centers and Family Homes) are participating in Early Achievers as of October 2014, or 79% of the RTT Target of 2,807 licensed providers.

**Participation by HS/ECEAP Providers**
HS/ECEAP site participation is currently below RTT-ELC targets

- Of the 70 Head Start & ECEAP Grantees in Washington, 18 are currently participating in EA.

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*RTT targets are more ambitious for family homes than originally intended. If we factor in the 20% decrease in the family home provider base to the target calculation, the current RTT-ELC Family Home Participation Target would be 1,518 (17% below target, 88% of target). Licensed site data takes into account those providers who have exited the system, so these numbers are lower than original registrations.

Source: Data Analytics Repository (DAR)
Data as of: October 31, 2014

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The HS/ECEAP Pilot began in summer 2012. 181 HS/ECEAP providers were reported in Dec. 2012 as pilot participants for RTT-ELC Federal reporting. To adjust for changes in policy and circumstances this count was restated as 158 providers in 2013.

Grantee participation is not comparable to targets since targets were not formulated at the grantee level for the RTT-ELC project.

Source: Data Analytics Repository (DAR)
Data as of: October 31, 2014
In October 2014 we see that 207 sites have rated at Levels 3-5.

In October 2013 only 18 sites had rated at Levels 3-5.

What we don’t see is that in October 2014 we also had 161 sites Rated Level 2.
In July 2015 the Early Start Act passed setting participation and rating milestones for providers that received state funding through child care subsidies or state funded preschool.

Existing subsidy providers were our largest cohort of providers. They all had to enroll in Early Achievers by 8/1/2016.
Summary of Enrollment: Subsidy Sites
Summary of Level 2 Completion: Subsidy Sites
Summary of Ratings: Subsidy Providers
## Rating Milestone Update

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Early Start Act Timeline</th>
<th>Level 2</th>
<th>Level 3</th>
<th>Level 4</th>
<th>Level 5</th>
<th>Not Rated</th>
<th>Not Rated, in the Queue</th>
<th>Not Rated, not in Queue</th>
<th>Grand Total</th>
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<tr>
<td>Existing ECEAP</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>219</td>
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<tr>
<td>Existing Subsidy</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>1,435</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>1,951</td>
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<tr>
<td>New ECEAP</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>67</td>
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<tr>
<td>New ECEAP + Licensed</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>73</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Subsidy</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>289</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>437</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>326</td>
<td>741</td>
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<td>Private Pay</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>413</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>335</td>
<td>732</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>2,002</td>
<td>383</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1,238</td>
<td>460</td>
<td>778</td>
<td>3,783</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Challenges

• Rates – currently at 55th percentile, when including tiered reimbursement

• Early learning professional compensation

• Supply of providers

• Staff qualifications
Thank you!

Contact:
Nicole Rose
Director, Eligibility and Provider Supports
Nicole.Rose@dcyf.wa.gov