



**Contact:**

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For more information about ECEAP:

[www.del.wa.gov/care/find-hs-eceap/](http://www.del.wa.gov/care/find-hs-eceap/)

**ECEAP Fast Facts:**

- 2011-2012 school year enrollment slots: 8,391
- Average cost per enrollment slot: \$6,660
- Two-thirds of children are in families with incomes below 80% of federal poverty level (\$17,880 per year for a family of four)
- 35% of children speak a home language other than English
- 7% are homeless
- 9% qualify for special education
- 39% are behind in well-child medical exams
- 45% need to see a dentist

The Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP—pronounced e-cap) is Washington’s state-funded pre-kindergarten program that prepares children from low-income families for success in school and in life.

Since 1985, ECEAP has focused on the well-being of the whole child by providing comprehensive nutrition, health, education and family support services. ECEAP reaches the children most in need of these foundations for learning. The program design is aligned with the nationally researched programs that have shown exceptional returns on investment.

**Who is eligible?**

Children are eligible for ECEAP in their two years before kindergarten if they:

- Are from a family with income at or below 110 percent of the federal poverty level (\$24,585 annually for a family of four),
- Qualify for school district special education services, OR
- Have developmental or environmental risk factors that could affect school success.

ECEAP prioritizes enrollment of children who will be in kindergarten the following year and children who are: in foster care, homeless, or from families with lowest incomes or have multiple risk factors.

At its peak during the 2010-11 school year, there were 1,416 4-year-olds and 2,925 3-year-olds on the ECEAP waiting list. According to state population/poverty data, about 18,600 children in Washington are eligible for ECEAP or the federal Head Start program and are not served in either setting. This could be for a variety of reasons: wait lists, children enrolled in another type of care, or eligible families choosing not to enroll their children.

**Program administration**

DEL provides ECEAP through a variety of contractors: educational service districts, school districts, community colleges, local governments and nonprofits. Contractors provide ECEAP services in 37 of 39 Washington counties at 265 sites.

For the 2011-13 biennium, the ECEAP budget is \$114,312,00, of which 97.8 percent goes directly to communities to benefit children and families.

**Child and family outcomes**

ECEAP is effective at increasing children’s social-emotional, physical and pre-academic skills to prepare them for success in school and in life. ECEAP strengthens families to build their capacity to support their children’s success. Also, ECEAP ensures that each child receives medical and dental treatment so that they start school with optimal health.

See the detailed outcomes report at [www.del.wa.gov/publications/eceap/docs/ECEAP\\_outcomes\\_2010-11.pdf](http://www.del.wa.gov/publications/eceap/docs/ECEAP_outcomes_2010-11.pdf)