

Highlights from Washington's Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge Application Oct. 19, 2011

The Department of Early Learning (DEL) submitted Washington's Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) application on Oct. 18, 2011. This application process pushed early learning leaders in our state to think even bigger about how to support school readiness for **all children** in our state. As a result, our proposal is ambitious and bold, but achievable and sustainable.

The U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will announce the states that will receive RTT-ELC grant awards in November or December 2011.

Here is how our state's application compares with the RTT-ELC requirements:



RTT-ELC requirements

- ✓ **Successful state systems** that include: demonstrated commitment to early learning and development; rationale for reform; aligned and coordinated system; and sustainable budget.
- ✓ **High-quality, accountable programs** with a statewide, validated QRIS and access to high-quality programs for children with high needs.
- ✓ **Promoting early learning and development outcomes for children** through early learning and development standards, comprehensive assessment system, screening and addressing health, behavioral and developmental needs and family engagement.
- ✓ **A great early childhood education workforce** that includes a clear ladder of knowledge and competencies and support for providers to move up that ladder.
- ✓ **Measuring outcomes and progress** including kindergarten entry assessment and/or building an early learning data system.



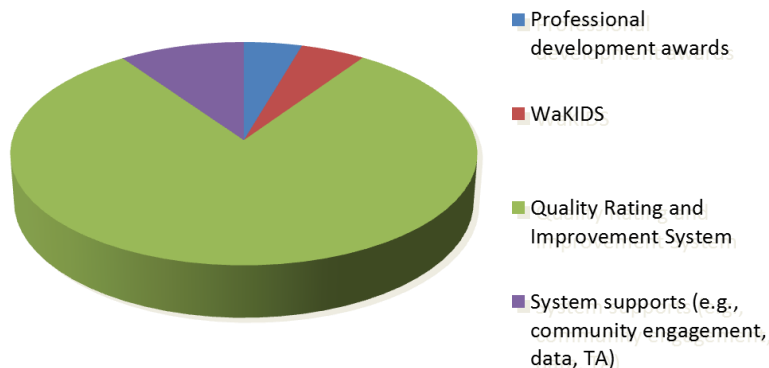
Washington's priorities

- ✓ **QRIS** system that includes all licensed child care, Head Start, and ECEAP by 2015*; clear **professional development standards**.
- ✓ Use of **WaKIDS** to inform instruction in early learning and early elementary; reach all schools by 2014-15 school year.*
- ✓ Strengthen our **P-20 data system** to inform decision making at all levels.
- ✓ Use the **Early Learning Guidelines** (currently being updated) as the backbone of all of our early learning work with children.
- ✓ Support **early learning professionals** with a robust registry that tracks and incentivizes increased training and education.

* Required elements of application

(more)

What would this \$60 million grant “buy” us?



- Grant period: January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2015
- DEL is projecting it can fund RTT-ELC within current budget until FY17—no new state funding.
- Cost-sharing for operational budget over grant period is approximately 66 percent existing state, federal and private funding, 34 percent RTT-ELC.

What does success look like?

WaKIDS:

- Scaled up to include all schools in the state by 2014-15 school year.
- In 2012-13 school year, WaKIDS includes all state-funded full-day kindergarten classrooms and those funded through private p-3 efforts.
- WaKIDS data linked to P-20 data system.
- WaKIDS data being used to inform kindergarten and early learning instruction, statewide policy.

QRIS:

- In 2012, all licensed child care, ECEAP and Head Start eligible for QRIS at level one.
- By 2015, 54 percent of QRIS participants at level II or higher (20 percent of participants at levels three through five).
- 60 percent of children in care will be in levels two through five.
- Tiered subsidy reimbursement will support and incentivize quality improvement.
- Supports available to all child care programs in levels three through five: Coaching, Washington Scholarships, Opportunity grants at community colleges, quality improvement awards.
- Training hub incentive awards for all participating Head Start and ECEAP programs to allow programs to expand training opportunities for local child care programs in QRIS.

Professional development (by 2015):

- More than 80 percent of early learning professionals will be entered into MERIT, the state professional development registry.
- 10 percent of professionals annually will increase their MERIT level.
- 20 percent of total work force have completed a CDA or achieved step 5 on career lattice.
- 30 percent of total work force have completed AA degree or achieved step 9 on career lattice.
- All state trainings and community college degree programs are aligned to the Core Competencies.