

The Legislature created DEL's Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) in 2007. ELAC representatives from around the state meet regularly to provide input and recommendations to DEL, so our strategies and actions are well-informed and broadly supported by parents, child care providers, health/safety experts and interested members of the public.

Ensuring statewide voices are heard

DEL—in collaboration with our partners at the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and Thrive Washington —has worked to strengthen how different parts of the state's early learning system work together. Changes to ELAC in 2013 included:

- Engaging with ELAC when setting the annual statewide Early Learning Plan priorities.
- Include a representative from each of Washington's 10 regional coalitions on ELAC. Regional coalitions include early learning professionals, parents, K-12 leaders, and business and civic leaders. Coalition members assess the needs and plan for early learning services in their community, and build public support. Adding coalition representatives as non-voting ELAC members helps strengthen the coalitions' effectiveness; increases engagement of diverse stakeholders, and brings local voices to state-level work.

ELAC members

Bianca Bailey, DEL Parent Advisory Group

Lindsay Lanham, SBCTC

Luba Bezborodnikova, Head Start and Early Head Start

Lois Martin, Child Care Center

Nelly Mbajah, DSHS

Bob Butts, OSPI

Anne Messerly, Washington Student Achievement Council

Senator Annette Cleveland, 49th District

Jennifer Ross, parent

RaShelle Davis, Governor's Policy Office

Jeromy Sullivan, Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe

Representative Jessyn Farrell, 46th District

Rebecca Timmen, DOH

Peter Finch, West Valley School District

Karen Walker, DEL Early Support for Infant and Toddlers

Representative Larry Haler, 8th District

Lisa Webb, family home child care provider

Dee Hirsch, Washington Federation of Independent Schools

Sam Whiting, Thrive by Five Washington

Dr. Bette Hyde, DEL Director

Jennifer Jennings-Shaffer, Children's Alliance

Caitlin Jensen, Head Start State

Collaboration Office Project Manager

Regional advisors

Susan Barbeau, First Five FUNdamentals of
Pierce County

Yolanda Esquivel, Southeast Region

Enrica Hampton, SOAR, King County

Karri Livingston, Investing in Children-
Central Region

Rhodes Lockwood, Olympic-Kitsap
Peninsulas

Wilanne Ollila-Perry, Northwest Region

Nancy Spurgeon, North-Central Region

Sandra Szambelan, Inland Northwest Early
Learning Alliance, Northeast Region

Dan Teuteberg, Visions for Early Learning, West
Central Region

Jodi Wall, Southwest Washington Early
Learning