

Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge

December 2014 update from the Department of Early Learning

In the spirit of the holidays, DEL would like to express our gratitude to all of the early learning teachers and caregivers who work tirelessly on behalf of children and families every day. Washington is fortunate to have strong teachers, caregivers, advocates, administrators, and legislators that push for the best interests of children every day. To those of you that have dedicated your careers to children, thank you.

Federal Preschool Grant Submitted

Washington recently submitted a federal grant application for \$70M to increase access to high-quality preschool programs in high-need communities. Special thanks go out to our partners at Child Care Aware of Washington, the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Thrive by Five Washington, Higher Education partners, the Office of the Governor, the Office of the Attorney General, Washington Association of Head Start and ECEAP, League of Education Voters, Children's Alliance, Educational Service Districts, and current ECEAP contractors for providing valuable feedback and input on the development of the application.

This grant opportunity is highly competitive – Washington is competing against 35 other states with robust preschool programs and only a handful of awards are expected. However, the grant highlights several areas that Washington can move forward on without federal funding, and DEL is working with the Preschool Operational Work Group to begin to create implementation plans.

The winners will be announced during a White House Summit on December 10th. A synopsis of [Washington's Preschool Expansion Grant](#) is available on the DEL website.

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Releases New Study on Preschool

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation recently released a review of the latest research on pre-K (publicly funded, center-based care for 3-5 year olds prior to kindergarten entry), including a review of child outcomes, costs structures, and elements of quality. They looked closely at four pre-K exemplar sites all of which have demonstrated academic gains that persist through elementary level at a cost structure that is sustainable. These programs share a set of common characteristics that allow them to foster high-quality instruction, as well as support educators and young learners. These elements include:

- Conditions for an enabling environment
- High-quality instruction led by B.A.-holding teachers
- Effective use of curriculum, standards and data
- Compensation consistent with K-12 among others

This work is intended to provide a valuable template for improving state and federal pre-K programs. ([Lessons from Research and the Classroom: Implementing High-Quality Pre-K that Makes a Difference for Young Children](#), Jim Minervino & Robert Pianta, Ph.D., September 2014).

Subscriber link

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Thanks for everything you do to support young children in Washington!

Washington's Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge Performance Tracker

EARLY ACHIEVERS: LEVELS 2 TO 5

As of October 31, 2014	Registered in EA	2014 Year End Targets	2014 Year End Progress
Total # of Programs	2,425	3,483	70%
Head Start and ECEAP Sites	214	483	44%
Licensed Child Care Programs	2,211	3,001	74%
<i>Family Home Child Care</i>	1,343	2,182	62%
<i>Child Care Centers</i>	868	819	106%
Total Children Served by EA	67,522	77,859	87%
Head Start Sites and ECEAP Sites	11,106	16,983	65%
Licensed Child Care Programs	56,416	60,876	93%
<i>Family Home Child Care</i>	8,743	13,996	62%
<i>Child Care Centers</i>	47,673	46,880	102%