

Washington Early Learning Professional Development

Fast Facts

Overview

Children need a supportive and nurturing environment in which to grow, learn, and develop, and prepared and knowledgeable professionals are better able to provide high-quality care and instruction to children. Washington is working to support and reward early learning professional to further their education.

Key components

The Washington State Core Competencies for Early Care and Education Professionals are the Workforce Knowledge and Competency Framework that guide the **professional development system in Washington**. They define what professionals need to know and be able to do to provide quality care and education for children birth through age 8.

Professional Development Data and Registry:

The **Managed Education and Registry Information Tool (MERIT)** helps professionals find training opportunities, access information on career pathways, and track individual career progress. Washington's goal is to ensure 100 percent participation in the state registry.

Career lattice: The **Washington state career lattice** provides a clear and consistent career

development pathway for early learning professionals, from beginning professionals who meet minimum licensing standards to professionals who have obtained advanced degrees in the field and serve as administrators, mentors and professors of higher education. The career lattice is embedded in MERIT.

Supporting training and degree attainment: Scholarships and awards are available to support and encourage early learning professional to pursue professional development opportunities and advance on the career lattice. We posted **guidance on what constitutes a related degree and approved credits**.

Supports for early learning professionals

Starting in 2013, the following awards will be available to professionals who are registered in MERIT:

- Participants receive a one-time \$100 reward for registering in MERIT and creating a professional record. This record will include verified education and training accomplishments.
- Providers can achieve monetary awards for achieving and advancing levels on the career lattice.
- Scholarships and apprentice programs are available to support degree attainment.



More information

Professional development:

www.del.wa.gov/requirements/professional/Default.aspx

Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge:

www.del.wa.gov/government/racetotop

DEL on Twitter:

www.twitter.com/WA_del