

## **Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge**

### **June 2013 update**

#### **Dear Early Learning Leaders,**

The Department of Early Learning (DEL) is committed to learning, gathering feedback, and using data to make adjustments to Early Achievers that ensure providers are supported to offer the highest-quality services to children and families. Based on the results of the first year of implementation, including feedback from DEL's primary implementing partner Child Care Aware of Washington and Early Achievers participants, DEL will be implementing the following policy changes to Early Achievers. These policy changes are intended to encourage and support broader participation in Early Achievers and to help providers move more quickly through the quality levels. We welcome your feedback on these changes.



#### **Early Achievers Year 2 Policy Updates**

**Rating Readiness Consultation:** Recognizing that programs want to receive the highest rating possible when going through the rating process, DEL and CCA will be supporting consultation prior to rating for providers that have completed all of their level 2 requirements. Consultation will be tailored to the individual needs of the program, will be provided by the most appropriate Technical Assistance Specialist or Coach, and will focus on preparing programs for the ERS and CLASS observational assessments. This additional level 2 support is intended to build confidence in providers, encourage providers to move forward toward rating, and ensure each provider receives the highest possible rating.

**Coaching:** Not all rated programs have the same coaching needs, and coaching resources need to be directed where they can have the greatest impact. Therefore, DEL and CCA will be developing a tiered coaching framework for sites that are rated levels 2-5. This will ensure that programs receive the appropriate amount of coaching to achieve their individual quality improvement goals. In addition, DEL and its partners at CCA and the University of Washington are exploring the use of online coaching tools to help support some participants and make coaching more sustainable beyond the RTT-ELC grant.

**Public release of rated levels:** DEL has received feedback that the rating process feels too "high stakes" to participants. Recognizing that Early Achievers is still in development, DEL and CCA will not make the rated level publicly available. Rather, participants that are rated at levels 3-5 will be publicly recognized as having achieved a "Quality

#### **Early Achievers participant goes to the White House**

*Posted in The News Tribune, June 1, 2013*

Joelyn Cruz began a journey 2 1/2 years ago that took her from being a Spanaway stay-at-home mom to a home child-care provider, which in turn led her to the White House.

Where Michelle Obama hugged her last month. Twice.

"Amazing!" Cruz said. "And all because the Pierce County Library really cares about children."

Well, there's a bit more to it than that. And most of it has to do with Cruz, whose life was changed by the recession when her husband, Roland, lost a good job and had to go back to school.

"Like so many other people, we found ourselves in a position we never thought we'd be in," she said. "We had two kids in school, the youngest wasn't quite seven, the oldest was 17."

While the Cruz family was looking into options, a longtime friend of Cruz arrived one morning at the day care center where she took her children to find it had gone out of business overnight.

This single mom with four kids called Cruz, and Cruz said she'd help.

[>>Read the full story](#)

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[www.del.wa.gov/  
government/racetotop](http://www.del.wa.gov/government/racetotop)

Level of Excellence.” Participants that are completing level 2 requirements or have been rated at a level 2 will be publicly recognized as “Participating in Quality Improvement.” This information will be available on Child Care Check and through the CCA Family Center by the end of 2013.

The rating process, points system, and quality improvement awards will remain the same and are an essential part of Early Achievers. Participants and their coaches will have access to the full rating information to inform ongoing quality improvement efforts. Programs will be encouraged to share their own data and rating levels as they choose. Additionally, ratings are subject to public disclosure under the Washington Public Records Act.

**Areas of Specialization:** To provide additional recognition of high quality, and to provide more substantive information to families, programs that receive a high number of points in each of the Early Achievers Quality Standard areas will be awarded an “Area of Specialization” in that quality standard. Areas of Specialization will be released by DEL and CCA in addition to indicating whether the program has achieved

a “Quality Level of Excellence” (e.g. levels 3-5) or is “Participating in Quality Improvement Efforts” (e.g. Level 2). Areas of Specialization are:

- Child Outcomes: providers that receive 8 of a possible 10 points
- Interactions and Environment (ERS/CLASS): providers that receive 35 of a possible 55 points
- Curriculum and Staff Supports providers that receive 12 of a possible 15 points
- Professionalism (Professional Development): providers that receive 7 of a possible 10 points
- Family Engagement and Partnerships: providers that receive 8 of a possible 10 points

**Re-rating:** Programs that are ready to be rated by December 31, 2013 will have the option to be re-rated within one year of the initial rating. Onsite evaluations must be approved for re-rating by December 31, 2014. This policy will be reexamined to determine financial sustainability.

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

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

<b>Early Achievers: Levels 2 to 5</b>			
	<b>May 31, 2013</b>	<b>2013 Targets</b>	<b>Progress to date</b>
<b>Total Programs</b>	<b>1,339</b>	<b>2,227</b>	<b>60%</b>
Head Start and ECEAP Sites	181	388	47%
Licensed Child Care Programs	1,158	1,839	63%
Family home child care	661	1,291	51%
Child care centers	497	548	91%
<b>Total Children Served</b>	<b>43,802</b>	<b>53,324</b>	<b>82%</b>
Licensed Child Care Programs	32,613	39,684	82%
Head Start and ECEAP	11,189	13,640	82%
<b>WaKIDS: 2012-13 school year</b>			
	<b>2012-13 School Year</b>	<b>2012-13 School Year Targets</b>	<b>Progress to Date</b>
Districts	102	N/A	N/A
Schools	308	N/A	N/A
Teachers	1,003	1,138	88%
Students	21,811	25,714	85%