



Provider Supports Subcommittee Feedback Loop

March 19, 2025

Recommendations, Input and Decisions Made, Status Updates

Follow Up Items from January 22 Provider Supports Meeting:

Licensing Updates: Post-Visit Licensing Survey

Q: How will the online survey ensure submitters remain anonymous?

A: We understand that the survey mechanism may raise concerns regarding provider anonymity. Since providers log into the Provider Portal to complete the survey, their information is automatically stored in the system. To maintain confidentiality, the report that will generate out of the answers provided by providers will exclude provider-specific information and account names. To ensure this sensitivity is respected, only developers and the QA/CQI team will have access to the survey information. The QA/CQI team will also verify that provider-specific information is removed prior to sharing any data with the organization. Identifiable information and raw data will not be shared or accessed by licensors or supervisors and only processed and analyzed data will be shared within our organization for collaboration and decision-making purposes. We acknowledge that achieving complete anonymity in a survey can be challenging, but by following these guidelines, we can minimize risks and protect sensitive information.

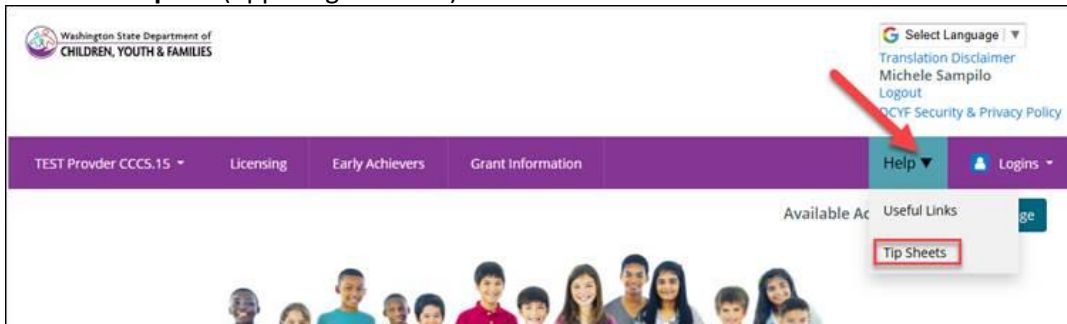
Q: Are you able to show the tip sheet located in the portal?

A: That specific tip sheet will be available on January 29th

Q: How to Access the Licensing Feedback Survey Tip Sheet

Answer:

- Log into the **WA Compass Provider Portal**: [WA Compass Login](#) after receiving the survey email.
- Click the **Help** tab (upper right corner).



- Select **Tip Sheets** and scroll to find "**Completing the Licensing Feedback Survey.**"
- Choose your preferred language.





- Follow the tip sheet instructions to complete the survey.

Q: Can you share info on the question vetting process and who participated? When opportunities to participate in development of something like this, why not come to Provider Supports to ask for participants?

A: During the January 22 meeting, several questions were raised about the creation of the Child Care Monitor Visit Survey, including the committee's role in the vetting and engagement process. The CE team has developed a timeline outlining key milestones that contributed to the survey's development. Please see the supplemental document titled *Creation of the Child Care Monitor Visit Survey* for more details.

Staff Qualifications

Q: What is the outlook for offering more courses, such as Child Care Basics (CCB) and Enhancing Quality of Early Learning (EQEL) 1 and 2? The classes fill fast and can be difficult to access.

A: DCYF is exploring solutions to increase access to Child Care Basics (CCB), as well as Enhancing Quality Early Learning (EQEL) courses based on provider feedback. We are committed to addressing this issue and anticipate providing an update on our progress in June. We truly appreciate your patience as we work towards improving access to these important training opportunities.

Q: Can training and education taken outside Washington state or internationally be verified and included in MERIT?

A: Individuals who have completed training outside of Washington state or internationally within the last 12 months can submit a continuing education proposal application in MERIT to receive annual in-service hours.

To verify certificates, credentials, and degrees earned in other states or countries, please create or update your MERIT profile and follow the instructions in [MERIT](#). For MERIT support and instructions, visit the [MERIT Workforce Registry webpage](#) or contact MERIT@dcyf.wa.gov.

Verification typically takes 30-45 days. For Bloodborne Pathogens training, DCYF accepts certifications approved by the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries, which is required annually. For First Aid/CPR, DCYF will accept out-of-state certificates, if they have not expired.

Food handler cards must be obtained from Washington state as a [requirement of the Department of Health](#).

Q: What options are available in Spanish at the Columbia Basin College to keep studying, and earn the state certificate?

A: Columbia Basin College offers both the Initial and Short Certificates in Spanish. Additionally, North Seattle College provides up to a bachelor's degree in Spanish, with online virtual learning opportunities available. Learn more by visiting the Columbia Basin College's [Early Childhood Education webpage](#), email education@columbiabasin.edu, or call 509-542-5600.

Q: Can you explain how the Hiring Education Affidavit Request document can be used due to not having actual degree or certification?

A: The [Hiring Education Affidavit Request](#) can only be used to fulfill the hiring education requirement of having a high school diploma or its equivalent. For more information, please refer to [Policy 301 Education Application Verification](#) (p. 10).



Q: Is there a renewed effort to combine these systems (MERIT, WA Compass, DCYF training, SSPS, etc.)?

A. Data systems like MERIT, WA Compass, DCYF training, and SSPS serve different individual functions. There are no plans to combine them at this time.

Q: Is there an update on micro-credentials? Will they happen, and if so, is there a timeline to implement?

A. Currently, DCYF is focused on improving access to existing pathways to meet foundational licensing requirements and enhancing communication about staff qualifications within the workforce. Micro-credentials are not being developed at this time.

Q: If certain options are not available such as the micro-credentials, why does the dashboard not show in MERIT as “met” until micro-credentials become available? Many licensors rely on the education area to issue the number of children they could care for.

A: In MERIT, the job role education will appear as yellow on the individual’s dashboard (in progress) until the requirement is met. The dashboard reflects the current options to meet qualifications. Micro-credentials is not an option.

Q: Child Care Aware of Washington was working on an equivalent math option for ECE staff. Is that still happening?

A: North Seattle College, in collaboration with Child Care Aware of Washington, co-created a math course specifically tailored for early childhood staff. North Seattle College is currently piloting this course. For additional math course options, please refer to the [Career Planning Portal](#).

Q: There is a long waitlist at North Seattle College, more than a year, for providers who do not have their certifications. What can these providers do?

A. For providers who do not have their certifications, a good place to start exploring options is the DCYF website. These are the links that provide information about each of the pathways:

- [Alternate credentials pathway](#)
- [Community-based training pathway](#)
- [Experience-based pathway](#)

Q: Status of the Job Role Pathway Publication with QR Codes:

A: A working sample of this publication was presented during the 1/22 meeting. It is designed to outline each job role and the available pathway options for meeting the education requirements. Coaches and licensors have requested this document to provide a simple, comprehensive resource that supports each job role. Each pathway will feature a QR code, linking directly to detailed information on the webpage to assist providers in determining their next steps. These publications are still in development and will be shared as soon as they are finalized.