



Washington State Department of **CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES**

Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) Meeting
April 1, 2025

State Agency and Partner Updates

Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) Updates

Updates from Early Learning Division

New DCYF ECEAP Annual Report

DCYF recently released the [2023-24 ECEAP Annual Report](#) showing the difference ECEAP makes in child development, kindergarten readiness, child health, and family resilience and well-being.

Early Childhood Equity Grant Opens Soon

The Early Childhood Equity Grant application will be available within the next few weeks! DCYF will notify providers by email when the application is open. This grant will support practices that promote inclusive and culturally responsive learning environments and enhanced language access. For more information, including frequently asked questions and contact information for technical assistance, please visit the [DCYF Early Childhood Equity Grant](#) webpage.

Electronic Attendance State System Spring 2025 Update

The updates below are coming to the state's electronic attendance system Spring 2025.

[What's New for Providers?](#)

Maintenance:

- Electronic Attendance is getting a new "look and feel" upgrade for its user interface. **KinderConnect** and **KinderSign** will function the same but will have a slightly different appearance.

Enhancement:

- The **KinderSmart** Registration Form will be more conveniently located at the top of the Sponsor Detail screen.
- **KinderConnect** Announcements and Messages will be more prominently displayed on the home screen.
- Resetting a forgotten password: **KinderConnect** will now send a One-Time Password to the email associated with the user, ensuring additional security for a provider's account.

[What do providers and families need to be prepared for during the update Spring 2025?](#)

- Be ready for the system to be down for a weekend evening – specific date to be determined. **KinderConnect**, **KinderSign**, and **KinderSmart** will be unavailable during the planned outage.
- We anticipate an extended maintenance upgrade window that will take several hours.

- Specific time information will be provided on the **KinderConnect** home screen closer to outage.
- If you need to sign children in and out of care while the system is down, keep paper records and input them into **KinderConnect** when the system is available again, as per [Procedure 404 Electronic Attendance-Internet or System is Unavailable](#) (pg. 21).
- Please remember to add a note, “System down for upgrade” to the added records in **KinderConnect**.

Resources and other information will be shared via email with providers who currently use the Electronic Attendance System. For questions, contact eas.servicedesk@dcyf.wa.gov.

Continuous Support for Children with Developmental Needs Through Age 6: Expanding Payment criteria for occupational therapy

The Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) has amended **WAC 182-545-200** to expand payment criteria for occupational therapy. Specifically, the rule change updates **subsection (4)(j)(iv)** to increase the eligible age for receiving occupational therapy services in natural environments from “age two or younger” to “age six or younger.” This change, effective **January 1, 2025**.

Why did HCA make this change?

The [updated rule](#) addresses a gap for children ages three to five years old. Outpatient rehabilitation providers are now permitted to provide care in a community setting (including daycare) up to age 6. Children who continue to have developmental needs and remain in child care until age 6 will no longer have a gap in service before entering kindergarten.

What are developmental services?

Outpatient rehabilitation services, such as:

- Occupational therapy
- Physical therapy
- Speech therapy

Read the update from the Health Care Authority here:

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/WAHCA/bulletins/3cb78c4>

Rule Making Updates

Recently Filed Rules—March 5: Training Requirements

Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) Licensing Division Child Care filed [WSR 25-05-054](#) for an expedited rule change to correct an error and better clarify the rule language. The changes are minor and do not affect the content.

The affected rules are Chapter 110-300 Foundations Quality Standards for Early Learning Program: WAC 110-300-0106 Training Requirements and Chapter 110-301 WAC Foundational Quality Standards for School-Age Programs WAC 110-301-0106.

Submit Comments

To participate in the permanent rulemaking process for these rules, the last day to submit feedback on the proposed rules is Saturday, April 12, 2025. You can provide feedback using one of the following methods:

- [Submit your comments online.](#)
- Email dcyf.rulescoordinator@dcyf.wa.gov.
- Leave a voicemail message. Call 360-972-5385 and provide an email address when leaving a message, so that we can respond to your comment.

Equal weight is given to all comments, whether they are made online, by email, or voicemail.

DCYF Semi-Annual Rule Making Agenda, January 1 – June 30, 2025

The [DCYF Semi-Annual Rulemaking Agenda, January-June 2025](#) represents DCYF rule making that is anticipated or currently under development. There may be additional rule making activities needed to implement legislative actions, comply with federal mandates, or meet unforeseen circumstances.

Washington Administrative Code Updates Affecting Child Care and Early Learning

The following WAC changes are now in effect: Prohibited behavior and discipline, and physical separation of children - [110-300-0331](#); [110-301-0331](#); [110-302-0331](#).

Multi-License Feature

DCYF Licensing Division finalized rules that allow a family home to be licensed for both foster care and child care: [WAC 110-148-1330](#), [WAC 110-300-0425](#), [WAC 110-300-0430](#). Multi-Licensing is the approval of a licensee to hold more than one out-of-home care license (e.g. family home foster care license, and one or more licensed- or certified-child care licenses). Multi-Licensing removes barriers, making it easier for families to operate both as a foster care and child care provider. Families with multiple DCYF licenses can provide seamless and continuous care and support to children and youth. For more information on Multi-Licensing, please [see this fact sheet](#), available in multiple languages, or check out the new Multi-License web pages for [foster care](#) and [child care](#) webpages.

For questions about DCYF rules, contact dcyf.rulescoordinator@dcyf.wa.gov. To receive regular Rule Making Updates, [subscribe here](#).

Additional State Agency/Partner Updates

Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)

No updates at this time.

To learn more, or if you have questions for OSPI, please contact Ryan Guzman at Ryan.Guzman@k12.wa.us

Department of Health (DOH)

No updates at this time.

For more information, please contact Astrid Newell and Angie Funaiole at astrid.newell@doh.wa.gov and angie.funaiole@doh.wa.gov.

Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA)

WDVA has published a child care roadmap for military families in our state. You can view it here: www.dva.wa.gov/childcarestakeholders. Our workgroup focused on childcare for military families in Washington meetings monthly.

For more information, please contact Olivia Burley at Olivia.burley@dva.wa.gov.

Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS)

- The budget adopted by the legislature gave us an opportunity to offer support for housing and utility costs for families receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families and services through WorkFirst for the 2025 fiscal year (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025). As of now, however, DSHS has successfully spent the allocated dollars for this support and discontinued issuing those supports for the rest of this fiscal year.
- Federal work requirements for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program require participants who are able-bodied adults without dependents aged 18-54 to either work, participate in approved state programs or meet specific exceptions to maintain eligibility for Basic Food. If they do not participate, they are limited to three months of Basic Food during a 36-month time period. However, SNAP work requirements allow states to request approval from the United States Department of Agriculture to waive specific areas from mandatory participation. To be waived, the area must have an average unemployment rate 20% above the national average. A new waiver has been approved by USDA, identifying only King County as a mandatory area through Jan. 31, 2026. The newly waived areas include the Muckleshoot Reservation and all counties except King County through January 2026.

- CSD is enhancing its communication efforts by expanding the use of text messaging campaigns. This initiative aims to significantly improve the overall customer experience by providing timely program reminders and other essential information directly to customers' mobile devices through SMS text messages. The first [texting campaign](#), which launched in March 2025, focuses on eligibility review reminders. Households that have not yet completed their eligibility review for such benefits as food and cash assistance will receive a prompt to finalize that process by reaching out to CSD.

For more information, please contact Christian Carvajal at Christian.carvajal@dshs.wa.gov.