



Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC)

State Agency Partners and DCYF Updates

Date: April 14, 2026

DCYF Early Learning Division

ECE Facilities Exploration Project Update

The Early Care and Education (ECE) Facilities Exploration Project is under development. The final report, due June 2026, will deliver an actionable implementation plan with recommendations to help DCYF and partners plan effective technical assistance, start-up supports, and other strategies focused on maintaining and growing ECE facilities. This project will advance ECE Access and Living Wage Implementation Plan Goal 4: Adequate facilities for expansion of the early care and education system, Objective 4.2 and 4.2. [Linked [HERE](#)].

Work completed

- DCYF contracted with BERK Consulting in November 2024
- To date, BERK Consulting has supported the following:
 - Catalog of facility investments and efforts in Washington since 2015
 - Literature review, research of other states and municipalities ECE facility approaches
 - Financing Analysis
 - Facilities Needs and Costs Estimates
 - Engagement, including interviews, focus groups and surveys
 - Local code review research and analysis that will identify strategies to streamline processes to support ECE facility development in the State

Work underway

- Recommendations are being drafted based on research conducted as part of this project; these will shape the final implementation report due June 2026.

For more information, visit the [Early Care and Education Access and Living Wage](#) webpage.

Upcoming Changes to the Dual Language Designation for Early Achiever Participants

There are several updates to the Dual Language Designation process beginning in July 2026:

- There will be updates to the Dual Language Designation application in the Coach and Educator Community Interface (CeCi).



- Participants will be able to earn a dual language designation through the quality recognition cycle.
- There will be a new payment structure. Dual language funding awards will be issued to eligible participants who earn the dual language designation.

DCYF is updating resources and the website to reflect these changes. More information on this process will be coming soon.

If you have questions, please email the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) team at dcyf.gris@dcyf.wa.gov.

Join Webinar: Working Connections Child Care Updates

The 2026 legislative session included significant changes to Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) policy and rates.

DCYF is hosting webinars to share updates on these changes, what we know about implementation to date, their impact on providers participating in WCCC, and to receive provider questions.

Providers are invited to join one of the following sessions at their convenience:

WCCC Program Updates Webinar

- **Monday, May 4, 2026 | 6 to 7:30 p.m. | [Register Here](#)**
- **Tuesday, May 5, 2026 | 1 to 2:30 p.m. | [Register Here](#)**

If you are not able to attend the live webinar, slides from the presentation will be available on the [DCYF Government Affairs webpage](#) a few days afterward.

Spanish and Somali interpretation will be available for this webinar. For questions, please email dcyf.earlylearningengagement@dcyf.wa.gov.

DCYF Rule Making Updates

March 30, 2026: DCYF filed [WSR # 26-07-058](#) to open the public comment period on proposed revisions to rules to amend the receiving care and Behavioral Rehabilitation Services (BRS) Program WACs in Chapter 110-50 to comply with the [D.S. Settlement Agreement](#), provide additional clarity, and to align with current practice. [Read full update here.](#)

March 31, 2026: DCYF filed [WSR 26-08-013](#) to inform the public that the following WAC chapter is the subject of possible rule making: Chapter 110-85 WAC – Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP) and Extended Guardianship Assistance Program (EGAP). [Read the full update here.](#)

March 31, 2026: DCYF's Early Learning Division filed [WSR 26-07-024](#) to finalize rules regarding changes to ECEAP eligibility and expanded enrollment. [Read full update here.](#)



Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS)

- **Elimination of SNAP Education program:** With the passing of H.R. 1, significant changes have been introduced to Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Among these changes is the elimination of funding for the SNAP Education program.
- **Working Families Tax Credit:** The Department of Revenue launched the fourth year of the Working Families Tax Credit on Feb. 1, 2026. This annual state tax credit is available to low-to-moderate income individuals and families in Washington. In the third year of the WFTC, more than \$228 million was refunded to nearly 316,000 recipients. This program is making a huge difference in our aligned mission to dismantle poverty in Washington.

For more information, please contact Lorraine Peterson, lorraine.peterson@dshs.wa.gov

Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)

Transition to Kindergarten (TK)

As part of the 2026 Supplemental Operating Budget, the Legislature reduced funding for the Transition to Kindergarten (TK) program by \$27 million. Lawmakers passed [Senate Bill 6260](#) to implement this reduction, which directs OSPI to prioritize support for existing programs serving students who are low-income, eligible for special education services, English learners and multilingual learners, and students who are eligible but not enrolled in ECEAP or Head Start. As OSPI carries out these requirements, our approach is guided by a commitment to minimize disruption to existing programs and to preserve access for children and families, particularly in communities where early learning options are limited, including small or rural districts. [OSPI published TK data](#) on February 5, 2026, showing that TK is an effective strategy for closing opportunity gaps.

TK Learning Standards

The development of learning standards for TK in ELA, math, and science is currently underway. In response to requests from districts seeking additional guidance on TK standards, the early learning team is collaborating with educational partners and internal content experts at OSPI to create standards that are both developmentally appropriate and aligned with WaKIDS and Early Learning Pathways. Math standards are scheduled for final adoption this July, with literacy and science standards to [follow](#). Learn more on the [OSPI Learning Standards FAQs](#) webpage.

Coordinated Recruitment and Enrollment

OSPI continues to collaborate with statewide partners, including DCYF, Child Care Aware, and AESD, to support Washington's early learning community of mixed-delivery services centering on informed family choice. Our focus is on every child having equitable access to affordable, high-quality child care and early learning programs that support early learning systems and strengthen families' ability to thrive.



MTSS Integrated Conference Save the Date | July 28–30, 2026 | Wenatchee, WA

Join educators from across Washington at the 2026 Integrated MTSS Conference in the newly remodeled Wenatchee Convention Center! This year’s theme – Aligning for Impact: Inclusive Systems That Work – brings together leaders, teachers, specialists, and support teams for two powerful days of learning, collaboration, and inspiration.

Conference Schedule

- **Pre-Conference**
Tuesday, July 28, 2026 | 7am–4pm
- **Main Conference**
Wednesday, July 29, 2026 | 7:30am–4pm
Thursday, July 30, 2026 | 7:30am–12:30pm
- **Location**
Wenatchee Convention Center
121 N. Wenatchee Ave.
Wenatchee, WA 98801

Additional details, including registration information and session highlights, will be shared as the conference approaches. We look forward to coming together to learn, connect, and advance integrated MTSS systems across Washington. Additional information and registration are available on the [MTSS Conference website](#).

For questions, please contact Samantha Bowen at samantha.bowen@k12.wa.us .

Department of Health (DOH)

No updates currently. For more information, please contact Astrid Newell at astrid.newell@doh.wa.gov

Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA)

No updates currently. For more information, please contact Olivia Burley at Olivia.burley@dva.wa.gov .