

# NEGOTIATED RULE MAKING

## Chapter 170-300 WAC | Foundational Quality Standards for Early Learning Programs

### 2017-18 Public

#### Sessions:

May 19-21  
Renton

June 23-25  
Yakima

July 28-30  
Olympia

August 25-27  
Renton

September 21-23  
Renton

October 12-13  
Olympia

November 17-19  
Spokane

January 5-7  
Sea-Tac

February 16-18  
Sea-Tac

**Background:** The Early Start Act mandates the Department of Early Learning (DEL) align standards across licensing, Early Achievers, and the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP). Alignment involves updating licensing, Early Achievers and ECEAP requirements, and creating a progression of standards and rules providers can easily understand. DEL drafted the rules using input gathered from nearly 500 stakeholders, representing all provider types and a wide variety of racial, ethnic, cultural, refugee and immigrant, income and linguistic communities from across the state.

State law requires DEL to negotiate rules imposing licensing requirements on family home providers with their representative and other affected parties: in this case, childcare centers, parents of enrolled children, and Head Start/ECEAP. Thrive, Washington, Child Care Aware, the Washington State Association of Head Start & ECEAP, and SEIU Local 925 organized teams of 10 to negotiate the draft rules. Respectively, the teams are called center providers, parents, Head Start/ECEAP, and family home providers. DEL is represented by a team of 10 DEL licensing staff. The teams collaboratively developed guiding principles focused on child development, health, and safety, and the protocols which guide their negotiations.

#### Negotiations to date:

- June-September: Subgroups of representatives from each team negotiated the draft rules (language and weights).
- Today, the teams are taking consensus on the negotiated rules to determine if all approve or additional edits are needed.
- Negotiators show consensus on the drafts using the “fist to five” method shown here, where fist –2 fingers block consensus.

					
<b>Closed Fist</b> No. I am blocking consensus.	<b>1 Finger</b> I have major concerns.	<b>2 Fingers</b> I would like to discuss some minor issues.	<b>3 Fingers</b> I am not in total agreement, but I feel comfortable enough to let the language pass with further discussion.	<b>4 Fingers</b> I think the language is good.	<b>5 Fingers</b> I think the language is great.

#### What to expect when attending:

- Sign in and sit in area designated for the public.
- Sessions are videotaped, though public will not appear in the video.
- The revised rules are projected on a screen, a facilitator reads them aloud, and teams discuss, edit, and take consensus.
- Remain quiet until the scheduled time for public comments. The scheduled time will be divided between those who wish to comment so all have equal time.
- Online comments may be made at: <https://del.wa.gov/PolicyProposalComment/Detail.aspx> .