

Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge

February 2013 update

Dear Early Learning Leaders,

We are now into the second year of implementation for Washington's Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge. This means that we are starting to transition from the "development" phase and move more deeply into implementation.

The progress in one year is undeniable: The number of children being reached by WaKIDS and Early Achievers is growing steadily.

2012 targets...on track!

Thanks to the hard work, diligence, and sweat equity of Child Care Aware, every single region met its 2012 Early Achievers performance target. What does this mean? More than 900 child care providers and programs are participating in Early Achievers, serving more than 31,000 children. See the performance tracker at the end of this newsletter for more detail.

Lights, camera, action!

Several child care providers in Washington have added to their 15 minutes of fame by participating in the Early Achievers videos. The goal was for Early Achievers participants to talk about their journeys in improving quality for kids and how Early Achievers is helping them along the way. We now have several videos for audiences including parents, providers, and early learning stakeholders. We already knew how great Washington's providers are, but even we were blown away by the enthusiasm, professionalism, and dedication of the participants. Please take a few minutes to watch them, and then share the links with friends and colleagues far and wide!



Early Achievers technical assistance in Spokane

Danyll Van Lierop, an Early Achievers Technical Assistance (TA) Specialist in Spokane, says providers are "fired up! The interest and enthusiasm has been infectious! Early Achievers gives them a well thought-out road map and tools for obtaining higher levels of quality."

Danyll has been working in early childhood education for 23 years, and prior to becoming an Early Achievers TA Specialist she was a child care center director and family home child care provider.

"The ability to be a part of helping so many providers achieve quality feeds my soul," Van Lierop says.

Why should child care providers enroll in Early Achievers? Danyll replies, "There is no better investment you can make for your program."

Early Achievers parent video



Early Achievers provider video



Early Achievers stakeholder video



Rating Process

If your annual performance review causes anxiety, you'll appreciate that many providers feel that way about getting rated. It's natural to want to be the best.

The Early Achievers rating process is designed to shine a light on areas of strengths as well as inform a quality improvement plan that providers will develop with their coaches. Working with a Technical Assistance Specialist, providers will make sure that they have completed all of the prerequisites of the program and are ready to move forward to rating.

When everything is in order, the University of Washington (UW) will send a community liaison to the site to make sure everything is ready for the data collection process and to answer any remaining questions.

On the day of rating, trained and reliable data collectors from UW will review the documentation and observe the experiences of children. The observational data collected is used to determine the **CLASS** and **ERS** scores of the provider, which make up 55 percent of the rating points. Additional data will be collected on the Early Achievers program standards, which comprise the remaining 45 percent of rating points. Providers are rated a level 3, 4, or 5 are eligible for additional support, including coaching and quality awards.

Incentives for Educational Attainment

Working with children requires specialized skills—and providers who receive additional training or degrees are now being rewarded for these skills. Beginning this month, early learning professionals who register their professional records in MERIT—Washington's professional registry system—will receive a \$100 sign-up bonus and rewards that vary by their level of education. You can find more information on the **Washington State Career Lattice**. In the first two weeks, nearly 60 early learning professionals have earned \$25,000!

Thanks for all you do to support young kids in Washington!



Learn more!

www.del.wa.gov/government/racetotop

www.del.wa.gov/care/qris

ww.k12.wa.us/wakids

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

Early Achievers: Levels 2 to 5				
	December 31, 2012	2012 Targets	Progress to date	2012 target met?
Total Programs	913	802	114%	✓
Head Start and ECEAP Sites	181	152	119%	✓
Licensed Child Care Programs	732	650	113%	✓
Family home child care	415	439	95%	
Child care centers	317	211	150%	✓
Total Children Served	31,295	20,265	154%	✓
Licensed Child Care Programs	20,106	14,928	135%	✓
Head Start and ECEAP	11,189	5,337	210%	✓
WaKIDS: 2012-13 school year				
	Projected 2012-13 School Year	Targets 2012-13 School Year	Progress To Date	
Districts	105	N/A	N/A	
Schools	307	N/A	N/A	
Teachers	1,036	1,138	91%	
Students	22,710	25,714	88%	

