

Draft Washington State Early Learning Plan

Recommendations to the Governor for Action in 2010

Update to the Quality Education Council

December 1, 2009



Department of
Early Learning

Office of
Superintendent of
Public Instruction

Thrive by Five
Washington

Why do we need an Early Learning Plan?

◆ A plan will:

- Help ensure school readiness and success for all children in Washington
- Coordinate the different systems that touch children in their earliest years (early care and education, health, parenting support, etc.) into one early learning system
- Measure results over time for children and families to ensure we invest in what works



Dec. 1- March 15

2nd PUBLIC INPUT PERIOD

Statewide community outreach, review and comment on Draft EL Plan.

Oct. 26-Nov. 11

1st PUBLIC INPUT PERIOD

Feedback on Draft EL Plan's Outcomes and Strategies.

Late-October

Draft EL Plan strategies and outcomes posted online

Dec. 1

Draft EL Plan, recommendations to the Governor.
Draft EL Plan posted online.

December to Early March 2010

Legislature in session – Jan. to March
Work continues on finalizing Early Learning Plan.

Late March 2010

Early Learning Plan finalized.
Implementation Begins.

Moving forward!

Continued monitoring of plan to ensure it meets the needs of our state in supporting school readiness and success.

What's in the draft plan?

- ◆ Outcomes and strategies to ensure readiness and early school success:
 - Ready and successful children
 - Ready and successful parents, families and caregivers
 - Ready and successful early learning professionals
 - Ready and successful schools
 - Ready and successful system and communities



December 1

Recommendations to the Governor:

Prioritized Initiatives

RECOMMENDATION 1: ENHANCE VOLUNTARY EARLY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL CHILDREN FROM BIRTH TO GRADE THREE, AND WORK TO CLOSE THE ACHIEVEMENT AND PREPARATION GAPS

PRIORITIZED INITIATIVES

Continue to phase-in all-day kindergarten

Create voluntary universal preschool for 3 and 4-year-olds as part of basic education

Continue the state's prekindergarten program for low-income families (ECEAP)

Promote supports for early language, literacy development and reading success in school, for children birth-3rd grade, that are culturally and linguistically relevant

RECOMMENDATION 1 (CONTINUED)

PRIORITIZED INITIATIVES

Promote early numeracy and math success in school for children birth through 3rd grade that are culturally and linguistically relevant

Promote funding for existing birth through age 3 programs that includes a continuum of services

RECOMMENDATION 2: SUSTAIN INVESTMENT IN HEALTH SERVICES FOR CHILDREN.

PRIORITIZED INITIATIVES

Sustain investment in public health care programs for children so that we continue to work towards reaching the Governor’s goal that “All children will have access to health coverage that provides effective care by 2010”

Support public awareness to enroll children in publically-funded programs

Sustain investments in dental care and oral health programs for children

RECOMMENDATION 3: INVEST IN AND STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIPS WITH PARENTS, FAMILIES, SCHOOLS & COMMUNITIES.

PRIORITIZED INITIATIVES

Promote parenting education and information

Formally engage parents, families, caregivers, providers, schools and community coalitions in a collaborative governance mechanism that works at both the local and state levels to inform policy and systems development

Include proven initiatives to strengthen families into elements of the early learning system (e.g., QRIS)

Promote and support culturally and linguistically appropriate parenting education and information

RECOMMENDATION 4: INVEST IN AND STRENGTHEN SUPPORT FOR PROVIDERS & TEACHERS.

PRIORITIZED INITIATIVES

Support the Professional Development Consortium’s planning for a comprehensive professional development system that focuses on achieving high-quality, and that promotes a qualified and well compensated early learning work force and integrates with the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS)

Continue to implement and strengthen Washington’s QRIS model

RECOMMENDATION 5: DEVELOP AND INVEST IN THE EARLY LEARNING SYSTEM INFRASTRUCTURE TO PROMOTE, SUFFICIENTLY FUND, AND PROVIDE ACCOUNTABILITY TO ENSURE EQUITABLE ACCESS AND QUALITY FOR ALL.

PRIORITIZED INITIATIVES

Build on the Joint Resolution of DEL, OSPI and Thrive by Five and build on ELAC to develop a shared/collaborative governance model that works at both the state and community/regional level

Implement a pilot kindergarten assessment process that is culturally- and linguistically- appropriate

Develop a P-20 longitudinal data system and data needed to close the preparation gap

RECOMMENDATION 5 (CONTINUED)

PRIORITIZED INITIATIVES

Revise (based on constituent input) Benchmarks, and implement them to work in alignment with K-3 education and inform the standards and curriculum used for professional development of early learning providers and K-3 teachers

Strengthen child care licensing

Move all activities related to child care subsidy/working connections child care program (e.g. authorizations, payment systems, and funding and policy) to DEL

Develop and implement a joint state policy that better integrates programs consistent with Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part C with other early learning programs so that services and funding are better coordinated and more streamlined for children and families

RECOMMENDATION 5 (CONTINUED)

PRIORITIZED INITIATIVES

Develop agreement among state agencies in coordinating and consolidating a system of home visiting, using report *Senate Bill 5830: Home Visiting Collaboration and Consolidation Report to the Washington State Legislature* as a starting point



Washington State Department of
Early Learning



Questions and Answers

