



Washington State Department of
Early Learning

Early Achievers Overview

Child Care Improvements for the Future Task Force



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Today

- ⦿ Overview of Early Achievers
- ⦿ Early Achievers targets and participation numbers
- ⦿ Head Start/ECEAP participation in Early Achievers
- ⦿ Next steps for Early Achievers

High-quality early learning

- ⊙ Early Achievers helps identify programs that have:
 - ✓ Nurturing and supportive relationships between adults and children
 - ✓ Care and education that meets each child's individual needs
 - ✓ Safe, well-organized facilities with age-appropriate resources
 - ✓ Support for development of the whole child
 - ✓ Open communication and genuine engagement with families
 - ✓ Meaningful efforts to embrace diversity

Early Achievers is Washington's quality framework

- ⦿ Focused on improving child outcomes
- ⦿ Offers information for families about early learning quality
- ⦿ Supports early learning professionals in quality improvement



Early Achievers incentives and support

- ⊙ Level 2 (participating in quality improvement):
 - ✓ Individualized technical assistance
 - ✓ Free professional training series
 - ✓ Rating readiness consultation
- ⊙ Levels 3 through 5 (quality level of excellence):
 - ✓ Coaching based on quality improvement plan
 - ✓ Scholarships
 - ✓ Quality improvement awards
 - ✓ Tiered reimbursement (future incentive)

Quality framework goals

- ⦿ Ensure that the most vulnerable children and families get high-quality early learning
- ⦿ Use framework to link existing programs to strengthen program's use of multiple funding sources and initiatives
- ⦿ Continuous quality improvement for all programs, connected to WaKIDS and K-12 success
- ⦿ Build one quality early learning system

Early Achievers partners

⊙ Department of Early Learning:

- ✓ Sets policy, funds Early Achievers

⊙ Child Care Aware of Washington:

- ✓ Provides training and technical assistance at level 2
- ✓ Provides coaching at levels 3 through 5

⊙ University of Washington:

- ✓ Created coaching framework
- ✓ Provides objective evaluation, rating of programs

Early Achievers levels

LEVEL 5
91-100 points

LEVEL 4
70-90 points

LEVEL 3
30-69 points

LEVEL 2
Professional
Growth
and Facility
Management

LEVEL 1
Licensing or
Certification

- ✓ Based on points earned in evaluation of four research-based standards
- ✓ Attend local EA orientation
- ✓ Complete EA self-assessment
- ✓ Complete facility registration in MERIT
- ✓ Complete professional training series (mix of online and in-person)
- ✓ Complete EA registration
- ✓ Licensed by DEL or certified (military, Tribal, Head Start, ECEAP)



Early Achievers levels, cont'd

☉ To be rated a level 3 through 5:

- ✓ Must score at least a 2 on instructional support in the CLASS
- ✓ Must score at least a 3.5 on emotional support and classroom organization/emotional and behavioral support in the CLASS
- ✓ Must score at least a 3.5 on the ERS

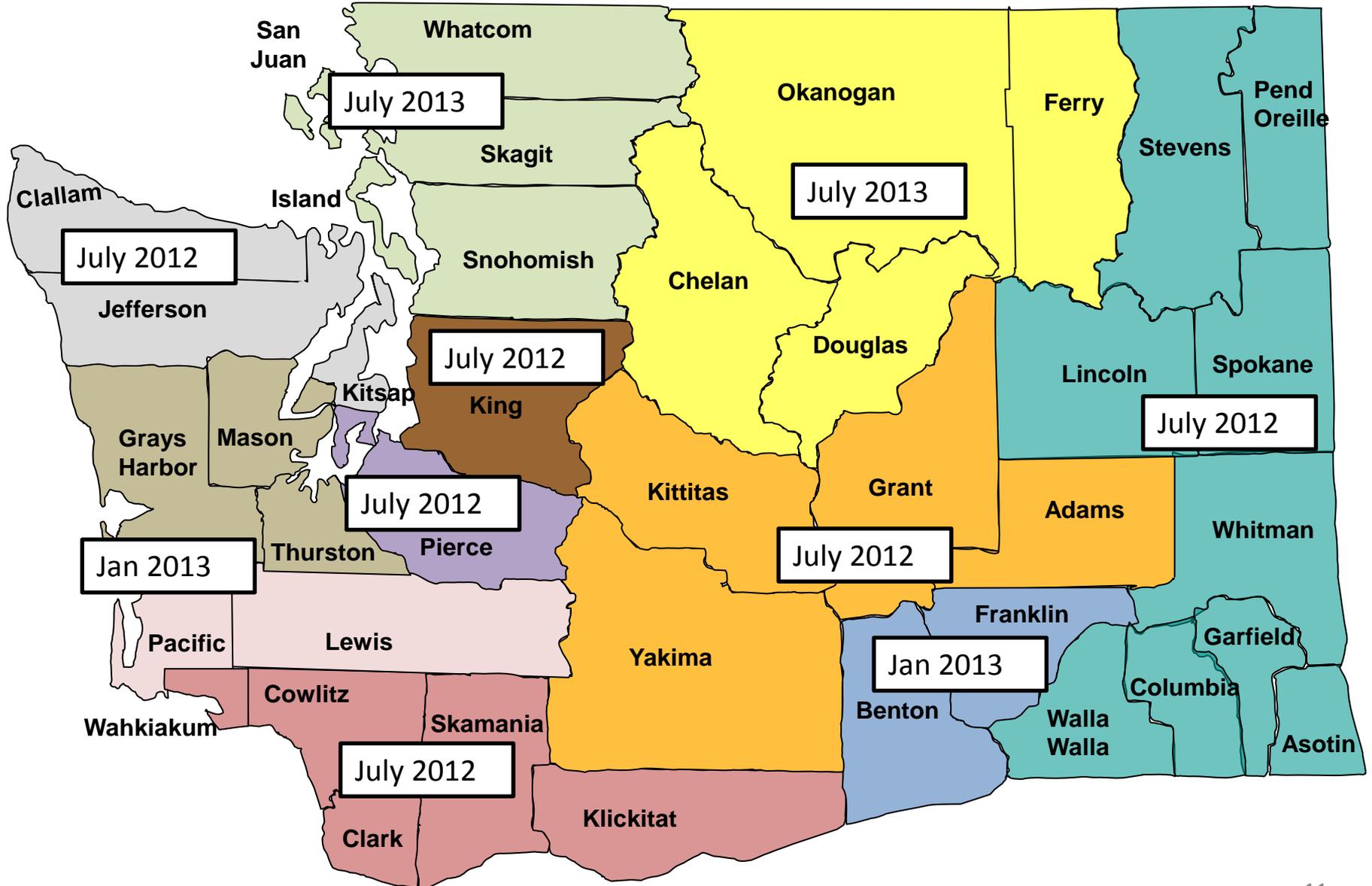
Child Outcomes	+10 points
Facility Curriculum and Learning Environment and Interactions (70 points total)	
Classroom/FCC Home Environment (CLASS/ERS)	+55 points
Curriculum, Learning and Assessment	+15 points
Professional Development and Training	+10 points
Family Engagement and Partnership	+10 points
Grand Total	100 points



How do families use this information?

- ⊙ Families get information about Early Achievers participation, quality when call Child Care Aware for referrals
- ⊙ Child Care Check (DEL's online tool) indicates:
 - ✓ Whether a child care site is participating in Early Achievers
 - ✓ If they are on level 2 activities
("Participating in quality improvement")
 - ✓ Whether they have rated a level 3 through 5
("Quality level of excellence")

Early Achievers statewide roll-out



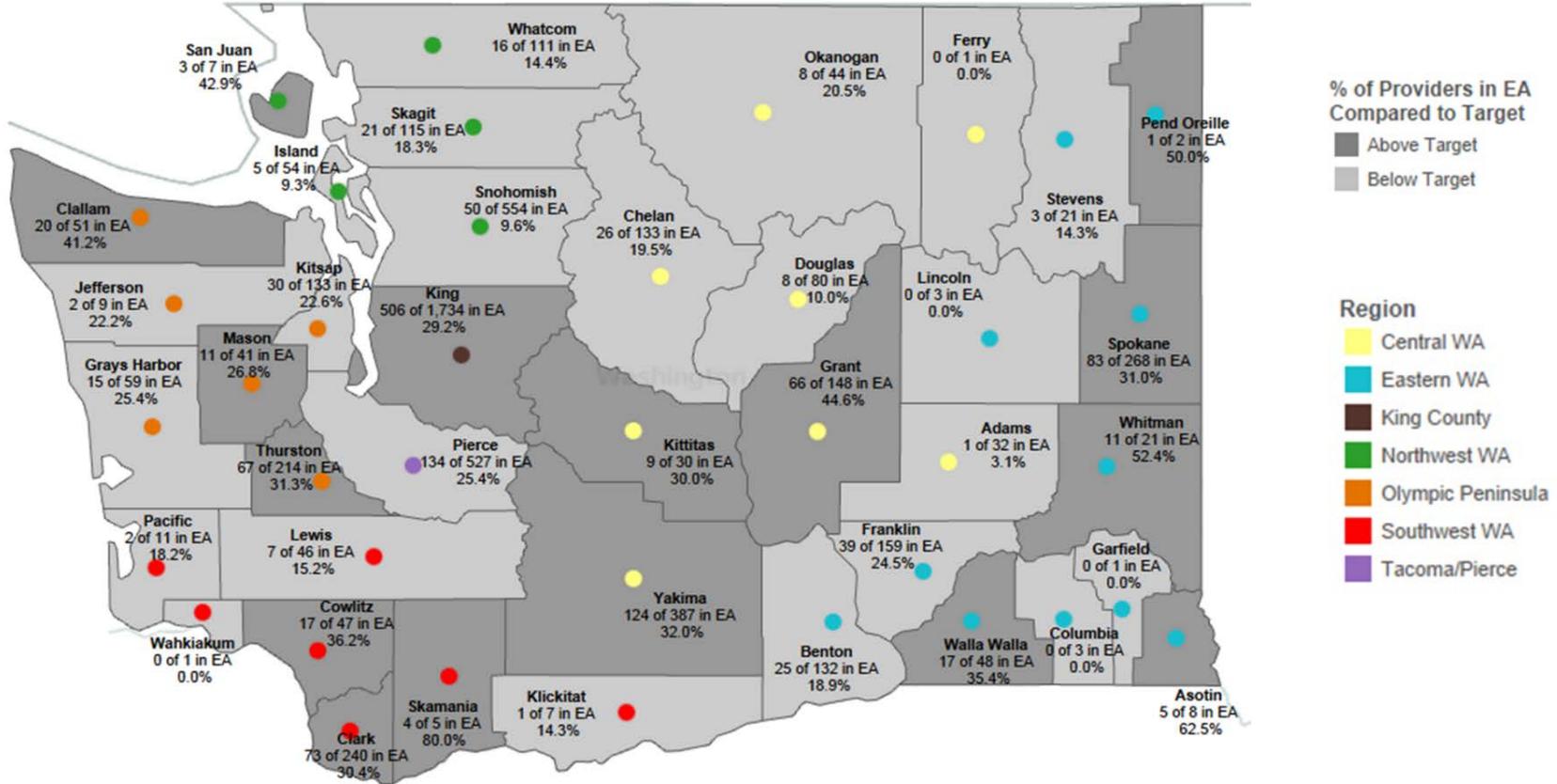
Early Achievers participation

Total statewide participation	
Child care centers	705
Family homes	888
Head Start/ECEAP	181
Total registered EA participants	1,774

Child care participation by region <i>(does not include HS and ECEAP)</i>	
Central WA	280
Eastern WA	216
King Co.	585
Olympic Peninsula	175
Southwest WA	123
Tacoma/Pierce Co.	190
Northwest WA	124

- Total enrolled children at registered Early Achievers facilities: **51,037**
- Total enrolled children funded by subsidy: **17,337**
- Total enrolled children who have an IEP/IFSP: **1854**
- # rated programs:
 - Level 2 (Working on Quality Improvement): **3**
 - Level 3-5: (Quality Level of Excellence): **17**

Participation by county and region



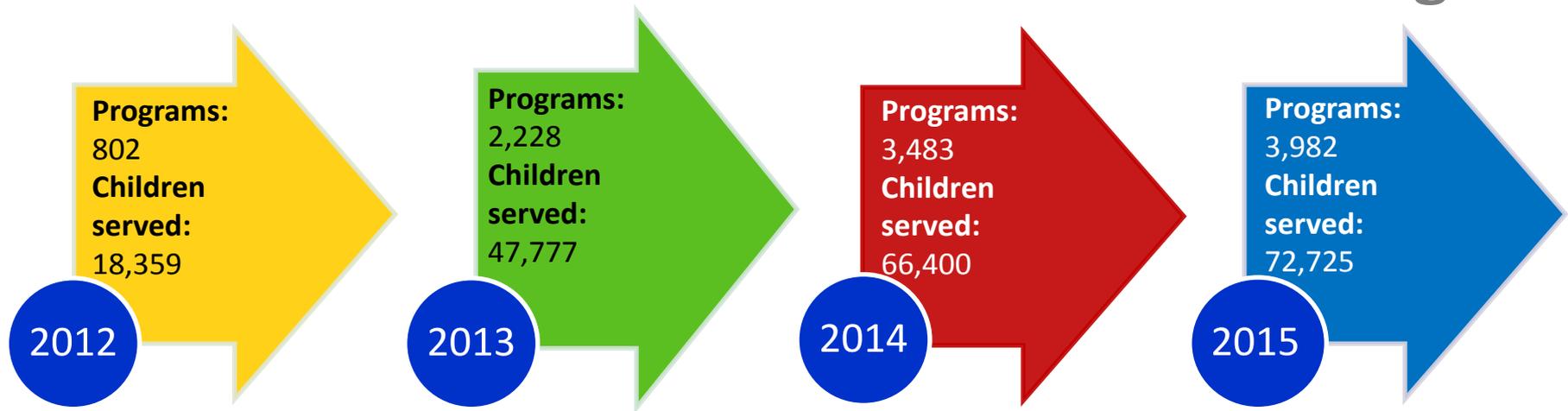
of Early Achievers participants (licensed sites) by county and region. The shaded colors show how each county is doing re: participation in comparison to the total target for this month/total participants in the state. Darker shading means that county is doing relatively better than the statewide target for participation in EA.

As of Aug. 31, 2013

Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge targets for Early Achievers

◎ By 2015:

- ✓ 54% of Early Achievers participants will be level 2 or higher
- ✓ 20% will be levels 3 through 5
- ✓ 60% of children in care will be in levels 2 through 5



Streamlined process for Head Start/ECEAP



- ⦿ All ECEAP programs join EA by 2015 (HB 1723)
- ⦿ Based on pilot, Head Start/ECEAP programs will:
 - ✓ Enter at a level 3
 - ✓ Be strongly encouraged to demonstrate higher EA quality levels 4 or 5 through full on-site evaluation
 - ✓ Not be eligible for ongoing quality improvement awards offered to licensed child care
 - ✓ Be able to apply to become training resource centers if they rate at levels 4 or 5 (paid a stipend to share training, professional development and other resources with other Early Achievers participants)

ECEAP/HS training resource centers

- ◎ DEL has contracted with 7 training resource centers to offer support to local EA participants
- ◎ Focus areas include:
 - ✓ Development screening
 - ✓ CLASS supports
 - ✓ Language and literacy
 - ✓ Parenting support
 - ✓ Reflective practice groups

Next steps for Early Achievers

- ⦿ Revised family home rules
 - ✓ Allows family home licensees licensed prior to March 31, 2012, to meet “equivalent education” requirement by achieving level 3 in Early Achievers by March 31, 2017
- ⦿ Examine child care licensing rules and ECEAP performance standards in relation to Early Achievers quality standards.
 - ✓ Integrate as appropriate to age and setting to child.
- ⦿ Provide coaching and other support to ECEAP providers joining Early Achievers

Next steps for Early Achievers, cont'd

- ⦿ Common professional development for all DEL staff
- ⦿ Explore braided and increased funding options
- ⦿ Pilot use of contracted child care subsidy slots to build integration
- ⦿ EA standards are universal measure of quality