



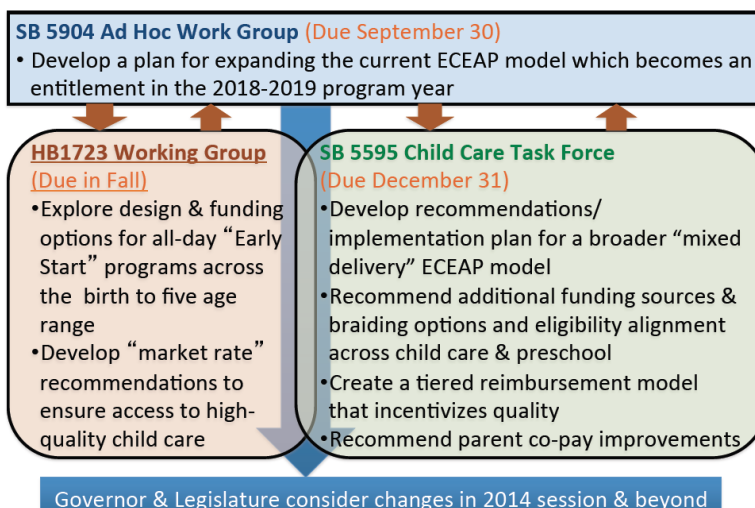
Expanding the Current ECEAP Model as an Entitlement

During the recent legislative session, the Legislature considered a number of bills related to early learning programs operations, growth and inter-connection. Ensuring that all children have access to high-quality voluntary early learning experiences while reaching children furthest from opportunity with more intensive support like the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP), raises many issues with implications for state preschool services for years into the future. Resolution of these issues may involve changes to the current ECEAP model.

In Senate Bill 5904, the Legislature directed the Department of Early Learning (DEL) and the Office of Financial Management (OFM) to submit a plan for ECEAP expansion as an entitlement by 2018-19. This implementation plan is due September 30, 2013. DEL is using the report development process as an opportunity to clarify existing and new assumptions about ECEAP's expansion strategy as well as vetting with ECEAP contractors, families and other stakeholders.

An ad hoc work group of ECEAP contractors and parents, community partners and state and local stakeholders has begun work to explore expansion strategy parameters. This group will continue to review draft documents as DEL develops its implementation plan for September 2013 and beyond. DEL is connecting with other work groups implementing early learning bills this past session to ensure cross-pollination of thinking and coordination of conversations affecting ECEAP.

Early Learning Work Groups



Expansion Strategy Development Timeline

August

- 16 - National leaders provide first of several consults
- 19 - Ad Hoc Work Group frames strategy documents
- 28 - Ad Hoc Work Group offers feedback on drafts-webinar
- 30 - University of Washington drafts *Evaluation Design*

September

- Early September - DEL leadership briefed
- 6 - Ad Hoc Work Group offers feedback on drafts -webinar
- 6 - *State Best Practices Brief* completed
- 12 - Ad Hoc Work Group offers feedback on drafts-webinar
- 15 - Strategy documents incorporated into report
- 30 - DEL provides report to Legislature

October- January

- DEL and partners communicate expansion strategy to legislative staff and other stakeholders
- DEL and stakeholders continue exploration and refine strategies
- DEL develops 2014-2015 ECEAP Request for Proposals

For more information:

Nicole Rose

PreK-3/ECEAP Administrator
 Department of Early Learning
 P. 360.725.4567
 C. 360.333.9802
 Nicole.Rose@del.wa.gov