G1: 1.1.a Increase state-funded preschool enrollment slots from the 2012-13 baseline of 8,391 slots to 19,068 slots by 2020-21 school year to serve 100% of eligible children whose families choose to enroll

1.1.a – Increase state-funded preschool enrollment slots from the 2012-13 baseline of 8,391 slots to 19,068 slots by 2020-21 school year to serve 100% of eligible children whose families choose to enroll.
Background:

- The Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) is Washington’s prekindergarten program for at risk 3- and 4-year-olds.

- ECEAP includes preschool education, health coordination, and family support services to prepare children and families for kindergarten.

- ECEAP is a key strategy behind DEL’s goal of 90 percent of Washington children ready for kindergarten by 2020.

- The 2017 legislature moved ECEAP entitlement to the 2022-23 school year.

Current State: Needs improvement

As of the 2017-18 school year:

- We have added 4,100 ECEAP slots for children, or 38 percent of the goal during 62.5 percent of the original timeline.

- We are at the 50 percent mark in the Legislature’s revised timeline of FY23.

- We need 6,577 more slots in the next five years to meet the revised timeline.
Percent of Eligible 3 & 4-year-olds Served by ECEAP or Head Start

Problem/Opportunity: Operating Budget

- ECEAP expansion is driven by Legislative budget decisions.
- We’ll need approximately $214,665,000 in FY23 to fully fund ECEAP slots.
Problem/Opportunity: Increasing Provider Readiness

- Expanding ECEAP requires a continuous increase in the number and type of providers to meet child and family needs in our diverse communities.

- DEL must have strategies for ensuring provider readiness in child care settings, school districts, tribal communities and rural/remote areas of the state.

- Currently, DEL partners with Child Care Aware of WA to prepare high quality child care providers to implement ECEAP.

Problem/Opportunity: Building the Workforce

- ECEAP continues to struggle to hire and maintain qualified teachers due to low salaries, lack of accessible training, and articulation challenges with higher education institutions.

- DEL estimates need for an additional 740 ECEAP educators with degrees by 2023.
Problem/Opportunity: Ensuring Availability of Facilities

- DEL’s Facilities Needs Assessment for ECEAP Expansion found that there are insufficient facilities to support ECEAP expansion.

- Existing and potential ECEAP providers estimate that they currently have space for 8-15 percent of the slots we need to fill by 2023.

- To serve 6,577 children by 2023, we estimate a need for 400 additional classrooms.

Problem/Opportunity: Bolster Administrative Capacity

- 96.1 percent of ECEAP funding goes to communities for direct services. DEL administers ECEAP with the remaining 3.9 percent.

- Though we are regaining DEL’s ECEAP administrative rate from the losses during the recession, it is not adequate to support state-level staffing to:
  - Set program policy.
  - Monitor quality.
  - Provide technical assistance in areas such as early education, support for dual language learners, child assessment, family self-sufficiency support, health coordination.
  - Collect and manage data.
  - Support new provider readiness.
  - Strategize for full and effective implementation of ECEAP expansion to entitlement.

- DEL’s ECEAP administrative rate is not in line with other states managing similar high-quality programs and is considerably less than ECEAP in the 1990’s and early 2000’s.
Our Key Strategies

Current Action Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Task Lead</th>
<th>Partners</th>
<th>Expected Outcome</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Continue annual caseload forecasting and Saturation Study analysis</td>
<td>DEL</td>
<td>Caseload Forecast Council</td>
<td>Accurate predictions of participation rate</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>November 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop pathways for potential providers to build ECEAP-level quality and capacity (Implement Pathways Project in remaining CCA regions)</td>
<td>DEL</td>
<td>Child Care Aware of WA (CCA)</td>
<td>Increased number of high quality child care providers prepared to implement ECEAP services</td>
<td>Remaining CCA regions implementing training and readiness activities</td>
<td>July 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase DEL administrative capacity to support ECEAP expansion (secure increased administrative rate)</td>
<td>DEL</td>
<td>National Institute for Early Education Research, Ounce of Prevention Fund</td>
<td>Increased administrative rate that adequately supports administrative functions for a rapidly expanding high quality program</td>
<td>Working with National experts to conduct cost analysis</td>
<td>November 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plan services for hardest to reach eligible children (remote areas)</td>
<td>DEL</td>
<td>ECEAP Contractors</td>
<td>Policies and plans for expanding ECEAP make it possible to serve children in remote and isolated areas of the state.</td>
<td>Initiating planning process</td>
<td>July 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implement Early Learning Facilities Fund</td>
<td>Commerce</td>
<td>DEL, OSPI</td>
<td>Increased number of ECEAP facilities available for ECEAP expansion</td>
<td>Planning to implement HB 1777; waiting for Capital Budget</td>
<td>September 2017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Questions?

1.1.a. – Increase state-funded preschool enrollment slots from the 2012-13 baseline of 8,391 slots to 19,068 slots by 2020-21 school year to serve 100% of eligible children whose families choose to enroll.