



Early Achievers Participant Resources and Supports

The Department of Early Learning is working hard to ensure participants in Early Achievers have access to a variety of resources and supports to assist with their quality improvement efforts.

Training

The Professional Training Series is available for participating facility directors and family child care providers free of charge. The Series is comprised of six trainings designed to provide background on the assessments and concepts that will be measured in Levels 3 – 5.

In order to ensure access for all participants, three of the trainings are offered in an online format and three will be traditional seat time trainings offered on a rolling basis statewide.

- ⊙ Environment Rating Scale and Classroom Assessment Scoring System Overview: *Online*
- ⊙ Washington Early Learning Guidelines: *Online*
- ⊙ Washington State Core Competencies for Early Care and Education Professionals: *Online*
- ⊙ Strengthening Families
- ⊙ Introduction to Cultural Competence
- ⊙ School Readiness

Technical Assistance

Free technical assistance (TA) is available to participants throughout the Level 2 process. Your local Child Care Aware agency will provide you with a TA specialist who will partner with you to successfully navigate Early Achievers and prepare for your rating. TA support is customized to meet your facility's needs, and can include:

- ⊙ Technical support with Early Achievers applications, including MERIT help.
- ⊙ Resources and materials related to the Early Achievers quality standard areas.
- ⊙ Information and support to better understand the assessments used in Early Achievers - the Environment Rating Scales (ERS) and the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS).
- ⊙ Follow-up on Professional Training Series, personal reflections, and actions plans to help apply new knowledge in your program.

Coaching

Coaching is a continuous service available to all rated facilities. Your local Child Care Aware agency will assign a coach who will provide targeted, ongoing assistance and support. The role of each coach is to help facilities:

- ⊙ Understand and use Early Achievers rating and assessment data.

- Identify quality improvement goals and support planning to achieve these goals.
- Access resources to support achievement of goals.

In partnership with their coach, each facility will develop a Quality Improvement Plan based on their own unique needs and priorities. Coaches are highly trained professionals with a strong background in early learning.

Quality Improvement Awards

Quality Improvement Awards are awarded to rated participants that serve non-school-age children receiving state child care subsidies. These awards recognize achievement and support facilities to implement quality improvement goals, as outlined in the Quality Improvement Plan.

Tiered Reimbursement

Providers that participate in Early Achievers and providing services to children and families accessing Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) subsidies may be eligible to receive higher subsidy reimbursements.

- The Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 43.215.545 allocates a 2% increase to the WCCC subsidy base rate paid to providers enrolled in Early Achievers who advance to a rated Level 3 or higher within 30 months of enrolling in Early Achievers.
- Facilities who receive a Level 3 through 5 rating are eligible to earn a higher incentive added to the WCCC subsidy reimbursement base rate from 4% to 20%.

Scholarships

Scholarships are available to Early Achievers participants to support their ongoing professional development goals. There are two types of scholarships available:

- Washington Scholarships for Child Care Professionals, administered by Child Care Aware of Washington. Information is available about this opportunity online here: <http://wa.childcareaware.org/providers/scholarships>.
- The Early Achievers Grant, administered by the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges. Information is available about this opportunity online here: <http://www.sbctc.edu/colleges-staff/grants/early-achievers-grant-program.aspx>.

Needs-Based Grants

Early Achievers participants accepting Working Connections Child Care subsidies may be eligible to receive a Needs-Based Grant to support overcoming barriers of achieving a Level 3 quality rating. These supports include the purchase of materials to improve scores on the ERS or CLASS (such as books, science materials, gross motor equipment, and more), substitute time, curriculum development and instructional materials, and other supplies or equipment helpful in improving program quality. Facilities may work with their Child Care Aware of Washington local office or apply on their own. Application forms are found online at www.del.wa.gov/care/gris.