

Puget Sound ESD

Early Learning

# CONNECTOR

December 2016 / January 2017

**UPDATE EDITION**

*This Connector newsletter is a companion or "Update" to the December/January Joint Edition that was published in December. After the holiday break, we felt that there were some pressing pieces of news that we wanted to communicate to you right away without producing a full-fledged Connector. The regular Connector newsletter will resume in February.*

## WHAT'S NEW IN GENERAL



### ADVOCACY DAY IS APPROACHING!

**February 8, 2017**

Visit the [Advocacy Day webpage](#) for more details, to request additional brochures, and to register parents and staff!

#### Advocacy Day is February 8

Registration is now open - please start talking to your families about signing up!

Bus stops and pick-up/drop-off times have been set and are available on the [Advocacy Day webpage](#). There are Transportation Update panels for the brochures available there, too. If you still need brochures, you can request those [here](#).

Have a parent night coming up? We have parents available to speak about Advocacy Day! Contact Lori Pittman ([lpittman@psed.org](mailto:lpittman@psed.org)) to make arrangements. Also consider using time at a parent night to make something that can be handed to legislators that shows the impact of our programs. This is a great way to involve parents that otherwise can't attend Advocacy Day. Activities often include handprints or pictures of the children served in our programs with an impactful message. Some ideas can be found [here](#).

Lori will be at the Family Support/Health Nutrition Trainings this month to answer questions, but feel free to email [lpittman@psed.org](mailto:lpittman@psed.org).

Last Tuesday, parents on our Advocacy Workgroup set up a call center (photo at right) to make appointments with legislators that parents will attend on Advocacy Day. They made connections with 60 legislators in 20 districts across our region! This was a great afternoon with parents that felt empowered and engaged in the advocacy of Early Learning in our state. Go team!

#### Policy Council

The 2016/17 Policy Council is in full swing! Please continue to offer your PC representatives a space at Parent Committee meetings to share what they've learned, as well as distributing the [PC Corner Newsletters](#).

If you're still recruiting PC representatives and need brochures, you can request those [here](#).





### **New Parent Leadership Manager: Quincy Stone**

Quincy Stone is the new Parent Leadership Manager for PSESD Early Learning. Quincy comes to us from Highline Public Schools Head Start. She will be managing Policy Council, Peer Programs, and other parent leadership opportunities. Please welcome her to our Early Learning team!

## **LEGISLATIVE NEWS**

### **Early Learning Legislative Information and Resources for the January 2017 session**

*By Lori Pittman, Early Learning Policy and Advocacy Advisor*

As promised at the Center Directors meeting in December, we are sending out legislative information and resources. Please feel free to contact Lori Pittman with questions or legislative needs. Be aware that this may be a year where we are asked to share our programs with both state and federal legislators. You may be contacted by Lori to host a legislative site visit. If you are contacted by anyone other than Lori, it is important to connect with her for our public records that not legislative activity, and for support. Lori can be reached at:

**Office phone:** (425) 917-7759 / (253) 778-7759

**Cell/Text message:** (253) 306-9131

**Email:** [LPittman@psed.org](mailto:LPittman@psed.org)

### **Governor's Proposed Budget**

*By Lori Pittman, Early Learning Policy and Advocacy Advisor*

Below and at this [link](#) you will find specific information regarding Early Learning from Governor Jay Inslee's proposed budget and links to the entire proposed [Governor's budget](#):

#### **For ECEAP**

- **Slots:** The governor requested **2,708 new ECEAP slots (1,133 in 2018 and 1,575 in 2019). 20% of these would be 3-hour part day, 70% school day, 10% 10-hour extended day/full year.** (Original Washington State Association of Head Start & ECEAP/DEL ask – 3,700 slots, all school day and extended day).
- **Rate:** The governor requested a **6.1% increase in the per-child rate in all program models.** (Original WSA/DEL ask – rate increase of 8.08% per year, total 16.7%.)
- **Facilities:** The governor included **\$26.2 million in a facilities bond fund for ECEAP/early learning.** (Original WSA/DEL ask - \$37 million)
- **Summer Pilot:** The governor included **\$2 million for 320 children – part day only in 2018, school-day only in 2019.** (DEL's original ask was \$12.17 million)
- **Scholarships:** DEL requested \$2 million for scholarships to support AA's and BA's for ECEAP teachers. This was not included in the governor's budget.

#### **Other Early Learning items**

- **Working Connections:** Center tiered reimbursement rates are increased, and the methodology is changed to a flat per child rate. The intention is to bring private and public rates closer together, while still incentivizing quality improvement. No funding is provided to prevent a wait list, as the caseload continues to float just under the cap.
- **Early Achievers** funding is reduced, but this is not a real reduction. The Governor's office plans on using available CCDBG money to backfill it. I'm being told that services would not be reduced elsewhere (mix of new money and new spending authorizations).
- A new electronic **time & attendance system** for child care subsidy programs is funded.
- **Home visiting** is slightly expanded
- Resources are provided to DEL to help them transition into the **Department of Children Youth & Families.**

Overall, this budget is good news for ECEAP – 2,700 new children is great, and the Washington State Association of Head Start and ECEAP, Washington State parent Ambassadors, other early learning parents and we will be advocating for a

higher cost per child (on your own time, you should talk to your legislators about why) – this is the first step in a long budget process this year, and we’re starting well! The legislature, both House and Senate, will write their own budget, but it is very important to have strong support from the governor’s office for our EACEP and other programs as a baseline, and he has been great on ECEAP.

You can watch Governor Inslee talk a bit about his budget [here](#) – he did a great media event recently at El Centro de la Raza to highlight his budget’s investment in ECEAP and the new [Department of Children and Families](#), which will combine the functions of DEL and the Children’s Administration at DSHS.

## Early Learning Action Alliance

We are sharing the Washington State Early Learning Action Alliance Legislative Agenda below:

### 2017 Legislative Agenda

Every child deserves the opportunity to succeed in school and in life, regardless of their race, ethnicity, geography, ability, or family economics. High-quality early learning is a strategy proven to give kids what they need to thrive.

Investing in a great start for children yields returns for all of us: more successful schools, stronger families, and more self-reliant adults prepared to contribute to a robust economy.



#### Expand access to high-quality prekindergarten (ECEAP)

ECEAP helps kids furthest from opportunity arrive at Kindergarten ready to succeed. Grow access with new slots and make the investments in facilities and the rate-per-child necessary for a successful expansion.

#### Invest in the value that quality delivers in Working Connections Child Care

- ✓ Increase reimbursement rates for center based child care providers.
- ✓ Pass the collective bargaining agreement for family child care providers.
- ✓ Invest to maintain access by providing funding for all eligible families who apply.

#### Grow and retain a highly competent early learning professional workforce

Establish a stakeholder workgroup to develop recommendations to the legislature for addressing insufficient early learning educator compensation.

#### Support parents as their child’s first teacher

- ✓ Sustain and expand home visiting.
- ✓ Enact Paid Family and Medical Leave.

#### Raise Revenue

New revenue is necessary to ensure a great start for our kids. New revenue for education should include new investments in early learning.

### State Legislative Committees and Updates

To see a roster of legislators for the 2017-18 session and committee membership lists, see the [Washington State Legislature’s Rosters Page](#).

The contact information for two of the new legislators who have recently been sworn in: Rebecca Saldaña and Dino Rossi.

- 37th district: Rebecca Saldaña, replacing Senator Jayapal, 360-786-7688, 224 John A. Cherberg Bldg
- 45th district: Dino Rossi, replacing Senator Hill, 360-786 -7672, 403 Legislative Building

## To-Do Lists (Deliverables)

### JANUARY 2017

[Center Director To-Do List](#)

[Education To-Do List](#)

[Family Support To-Do List](#)

[Health/Nutrition To-Do List](#)