

# Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) Updates

## Creating IEPs for Children in Preschool Settings

Development is sequential, with skills building on prior knowledge and learning. Young students pass through many key milestones on their way toward end-of-year standards. Using developmental progressions that show how learning unfolds across multiple grade levels allows teachers to identify what knowledge and abilities students possess at the start of the year and what comes next, to meet each student where they are and address any existing gaps. Utilizing the [Early Learning and Development Guidelines \(ELG\), GOLD®](#) (formerly Teaching Strategies GOLD®), used in WaKIDS & ECEAP, Head Start Early Learning Outcomes (HS), and the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), will ensure that IEPs created for children participating in early learning programs are evidence-based and aligned to state standards.

- [Early Learning Resources | OSPI Webpage](#)
  - [OSPI Social Emotional Learning Pathways](#)
  - [Learning Pathways in Numeracy](#)
  - [Early Literacy Pathways](#)

## Funding Early Learning Activities in WA state

OSPI is providing this guide to advise Local Education Agencies (LEAs) on the possible uses of federal funds for early learning activities. This guide does not require LEAs to implement early learning activities, but to make LEAs aware of the possible uses of federal funds for those considering early learning activities.

The following information illustrates early learning activities, the funding possibilities, and examples from LEAs in the state that have already implemented some of those activities. The focus of this guide is narrowed the activities supporting prekindergarten children from birth to age 5. For more information, contact [Emily Statler](#), Title I, Part A Program Supervisor, Elementary, Early Learning, and Federal Programs (EELFP)

Additional Resources:

- [Unlocking State and Federal Program Funds](#)
- [Braided Funding TIP](#)



## Update: ESIT ACORN Launch Date Postponed

*ACORN Users, CLA Partners, Agency Administrators and School District Staff*

We recently completed our first comprehensive ACORN User training webinar series and have launched the self-guided modules in the DCYF training portal. Over the course of the training, we received valuable feedback and suggestions from our attendees that have prompted us to develop additional training materials that will be released after final testing and product development activities have been completed. You will be able to find additional training resources for ACORN posted on our [ESIT website](#).

More importantly, we were able to identify changes to ACORN that will need to be completed prior to a launch of the system. The feedback from training attendees, our CLA partners, local ESIT Provider Agency leaders, and the concerns brought forth by the State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) and SICC Data Committee are vital to our decisions regarding launch criteria for ACORN. We are now aware of unexpected challenges in the creation of data exchanges, the migration of data from the DMS and the customization of the ACORN system. After careful consideration of all factors, a decision was made to accept the steadfast recommendations from these key consulting partner groups, to postpone the launch of the new data system.

What does this mean for you?

**There will not be a launch of ACORN on November 1, 2023. We are postponing the launch of our new data system and cancelling the scheduled DMS Black-Out period originally set for October 25, 2023.**

Moving forward, to safeguard against perpetual re-setting of launch dates, we will **be establishing a 90-day advance notification period leading up to the final launch. The final launch date will not be established until the final work product has been completed by the Public Consulting Group.**

A new launch date will be announced once the customization of ACORN is completed, all data exchanges that are currently in place have been tested and are functioning correctly, and data migration testing has concluded. Once the final product is ready, we will implement the 90-day advance notification safeguard, announce the final launch date, and transition to implementation of an advanced three-tiered training framework to be available during the 90-day advance notification period.

We are committed to making a successful transition to ACORN when the system is ready, and our Users have been properly trained to a final product. Updates will be sent out via GovDelivery on an ongoing basis. If you are not signed up to receive the GovDeliveries sent by the Early Support for Infants and Toddlers Program, or know of others who do not receive these communications, please sign up here [Washington State Department of Children, Youth & Families \(govdelivery.com\)](#)

For questions or suggestions, please contact our ESIT Data Systems and Analysis Manager, Kim Hopkins, at [kim.hopkins@dcyf.wa.gov](mailto:kim.hopkins@dcyf.wa.gov)

## ECSE Inclusion Champions Resource Share

### Family Resources:

- Welcome to [STEMIE's curated collection of science, technology, engineering, and math \(STEM\) storybooks for infants, toddlers, and young children](#). Suggested adaptations, question prompts, and activities are provided with each.

### Program Wide Leadership Team Resources:

- [Coaching Strategies Used During Focused Observations](#)
- [Pyramid Model Equity Coaching Guide](#)
- Teaching Pyramid Observation Tool (TPOT) training November 29th & 30th via Zoom
  - Contact your local ESD ECSE Coordinator(s) for more information.