

# *Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) Updates*

## **Washington and Idaho Lead the Way in SSIP Implementation**

Washington and Idaho are making significant progress in scaling their State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) work to improve outcomes for young children with disabilities. With support from the Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center ([ECTA](#)) and [DaSy](#) Center, both states have strengthened statewide systems and used data to inform meaningful improvements. This [spotlight](#) showcases how targeted technical assistance is helping build more inclusive and effective early childhood systems.

## **aRPy Ambassadors Strengthen State Systems through Professional Development and Mentoring**

Since 2016, the aRPy Ambassador Program has helped promote the Division for Early Childhood's (DEC) Recommended Practices through professional development, mentoring, and family engagement. With 48 Ambassadors across 32 states and two territories, this growing network supports educators and families in using effective, evidence-based strategies to improve outcomes for young children with disabilities. Learn more about how these Ambassadors are making an impact nationwide: [ECTA Center: aRPy Ambassadors Strengthen State Systems through Professional Development and Mentoring](#).

## **Transition to Kindergarten (TK) Office Hours**

The OSPI Early Learning division invites administrators and teachers to attend our office hours to discuss any questions or concerns related to TK implementation. The next office hours will be held on June 17th at 11 am. To attend, click on this [Zoom link](#). You can also find more information about office hours on the [Transition to Kindergarten](#) webpage.

## **2025 Northwest Early Learning and Pyramid Summit Registration is Open**

We are excited to announce that the 2025 Northwest Early Learning & Pyramid Summit will take place November 19–20 in Boise, Idaho! This regional event brings together early childhood administrators, coaches, behavior specialists, educators, and state teams for two impactful days of learning and collaboration.

The Summit reflects the Northwest's strong tradition of regional collaboration and practical learning. Participants engage in two days of professional development focused on evidence-based strategies for supporting positive behavior, building effective learning environments, and



enhancing early learning outcomes. The Summit offers a 'Spanish Track' – a selection of sessions delivered entirely in Spanish.

A day of optional pre-conference sessions will also be held on November 18th providing hands-on training in approaches aligned with the Pyramid Model framework, aimed at building skills that support all children's growth and success.

Registration opened on Friday, May 30th. We anticipate the Summit will fill quickly again this year, so early registration is encouraged! To register, visit the [Northwest Early Learning and Pyramid Summit](#) website.

In addition, we will be hosting evening virtual sessions in October for educators, providers, and home visitors. Details and registration for these sessions will be available in September.

## **Division for Early Childhood's 41st Annual International Conference on Young Children with Disabilities and Their Families**

**October 7–10, 2025 | Portland, OR**

This year's conference brings together individuals from around the world to share insights, innovative practices, and the latest research focused on early intervention, early childhood special education, and inclusive practices. With a range of engaging sessions, dynamic workshops, and collaborative networking opportunities, attendees will gain valuable tools and inspiration to foster growth, inclusivity, and success in young children with disabilities.

What You Can Expect:

- **Cutting-Edge Sessions:** Learn from field-leading colleagues in early childhood, with sessions tailored for professionals, researchers, and family members alike.
- **Networking Opportunities:** Connect with like-minded professionals, advocates, and families from around the world, sharing stories, strategies, and support.
- **Engaging Workshops:** Participate in workshops and activities designed to deepen your understanding and skills in early childhood practices.
- **Exhibit Hall & Special Events:** Discover resources and enjoy engaging activities, including our welcome reception following the opening keynote and a scavenger hunt throughout the exhibit hall.

Don't miss this opportunity to join the DEC community in advancing knowledge, advocating for inclusive practices, and supporting young children and their families!

For more information and to register, visit the [DEC Conference](#) website.