

Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) Updates

Greetings from OSPI's New 619 Coordinator!

My name is Candis Coble, and I am truly thrilled to serve in this role supporting Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) at OSPI. It is an honor to work alongside so many dedicated professionals and families, and I look forward to contributing to the success of children across Washington. Please feel free to contact me at: candis.coble@k12.wa.us or by phone at 360-725-6075.

ECSE Office Hours

ECSE Office Hours will resume in November, providing regular opportunities for educators and administrators to consult, ask questions, and collaborate around ECSE implementation and policy.

2025 Northwest Early Learning & Pyramid Summit

November 19–20, 2025 | Boise, Idaho

OSPI is excited to announce the 2025 Northwest Early Learning & Pyramid Summit taking place on November 19–20, 2025 in Boise, Idaho, with Spanish-language session tracks and optional pre-conference Pyramid Model training on November 18th. 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 is open now. We anticipate the Summit will fill-up quickly again this year, so early registration is encouraged! To register, visit the [Northwest Early Learning and Pyramid Summit](#) website.



41st Annual International Conference on Young Children with Disabilities and Their Families

October 7–10, 2025 | Portland, OR

The Council for Exceptional Children's Division for Early Childhood (DEC) 41st Annual International Conference on Young Children with Disabilities and Their Families will be held October 7–10, 2025 in Portland, OR — a premier opportunity to connect nationally on best practices in ECSE. 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. 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.

Do not 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.

National Black Child Development Institute

October 24–26, 2025 | Atlanta, GA

The National Black Child Development Institute (NBCDI) invites you to save the date for our annual National Conference from October 24–26, 2025 in Atlanta, GA. We will reimagine the infinite possibilities for our Black children, families, and communities. As we enter a new season of our work here at NBCDI, we are compelled to reaffirm our commitment to mobilize communities and ignite movements for the health, safety, and well-being of Black children and communities. For us, this means collective changemaking and purpose-building in the face of adversity. Black children deserve to live in a society where they are not bound by dangerous

narratives and realities. We seek to make the change we want to see in this world. This dream and the changemaking that will follow are unshakable. Together let us advocate, innovate, and mobilize in this quest for liberation and infinite possibilities. Our National Conference will be a time to work toward making this dream a reality. Mark your calendars! To register, visit the [National Black Child Development Institute](#).

NAEYC Annual Conference

November 19–22, 2025 | Orlando, FL

Join thousands of early childhood educators, leaders, and advocates at the largest early learning conference in the world. The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Annual Conference offers hundreds of engaging sessions, hands-on workshops, and networking opportunities focused on high-quality early education for children birth through age 8. Explore the latest research, resources, and best practices while connecting with peers and experts from across the field. For more information, visit the [2025 NAEYC Annual Conference](#) website.

Frequently Asked Question (FAQ)

Question: *Do all school districts have to provide services to children ages 3–5 years old?*

Answer: YES!

Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) is a federally mandated program under Part B, Section 619 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). It ensures that children ages 3 through 5 who have developmental delays or disabilities receive a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE). ECSE services include specially designed instruction and related services tailored to support each child's unique developmental needs—such as communication, motor, cognitive, social-emotional, and adaptive skills. These services are delivered through an Individualized Education Program (IEP) and are designed to support school readiness and participation in inclusive early learning settings.

In Washington State, children become eligible for ECSE under IDEA Part B beginning on their **third birthday**, and school districts must ensure that an IEP is in place by that date—even if it falls during the summer. Under the Washington Administrative Code (WAC 392-172A-02000 & 392-172A-02055), districts are required to provide a **full continuum of placement options**, from inclusive preschool classrooms with typically developing peers to home-based or specialized settings, based on each child's needs.

Referrals for special education evaluations can be made at any time by families, caregivers, medical professionals, early learning providers, or others with developmental concerns. Children can be referred for evaluation and found eligible for ECSE services at any point between the ages of 3 and 5. For children transitioning from early intervention services (IDEA Part C), school

districts must ensure that an IEP is in place and services begin no later than the child's third birthday. For children newly referred and eligible after turning 3, services must begin as soon as possible following the development of an IEP. School districts are responsible for conducting timely evaluations and ensuring that all eligible children have access to appropriate ECSE services without delay.