



**CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE**

*A Voice for Washington's Children, Youth & Families*

# Expand ECEAP

## Every child deserves a great start

**The Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP)** is quality preschool that's good for kids, parents and schools.

Washington has some of the highest child-care (including preschool) costs in the nation. That means some kids, disproportionately kids in low-income families and children of color, miss out on early experiences in preschool that can help them have a great childhood and thrive in kindergarten. ECEAP expands equitable access to high-quality, culturally responsive preschool.

**ECEAP is an evidence-based strategy for promoting K-12 student success.** Studies show that third-, fourth- and fifth-graders who had been enrolled in ECEAP do better academically than peers who hadn't had the same opportunity.

**Skilled early-childhood educators build great kids.** Early childhood educators are teaching our youngest children during their important early years. They deserve ample resources to build connections that help children learn their whole lives.



**ECEAP is a proven investment in kids and families:** In particular, ECEAP:

- **Strengthens families** by involving parents and caregivers.
- **Prioritizes children** with special needs, and whose families have low-incomes, are homeless, or are involved in the child welfare system.
- **Addresses racial inequities** by providing access to high-quality, culturally responsive preschool.
- **Builds student success.** The quality child-teacher experiences kids enjoy in ECEAP lay the groundwork for a solid education in K-12.

### **Lawmakers should expand ECEAP in 2017:**

- Invest in access and quality, making sure more children can enroll and that providers can recruit and retain highly qualified early childhood educators.

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