

Early Childhood Development and Services

Statutory and/or Budget Language

\$50,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2024 is provided solely for the office to consult with one or two public high schools that offer established courses in the early childhood development and services career pathway and develop model materials that may be employed by other school districts with an interest in establishing or expanding similar instructional offerings to students. The model materials must be developed by January 1, 2024.

Purpose

The funding is an investment in the development of courses and models to support implementation of early childhood education (ECE), through highlighting best practices proven from high schools that have previously offered established courses and high-quality programs.

Description of Services Provided

OSPI successfully consulted with two public high schools offering established courses in the early childhood development and services career pathway. Through this collaboration, they developed model materials that can be employed by other school districts interested in establishing or expanding similar instructional offerings to students.

Criteria for Receiving Services and/or Grants

Two school districts were selected to collaborate on ECE materials. These districts were chosen from opposite sides of the state to ensure a diverse representation. Both districts have demonstrated excellence in their ECE programs, with proven track records of success, and maintain strong connections to early childhood learning centers. This selection strategy aims to combine expertise from different regions and leverage the districts' established relationships with ECE facilities to create high-quality, relevant materials.

Beneficiaries in the 2023-24 School Year

Number of School Districts	2
Number of Schools	2
Number of Students	N/A
Number of Educators	4
Other	N/A



Are Federal or Other Funds Contingent on State Funding?

No

State Funding History

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
2024	\$50,000	\$33,390

Number of Beneficiaries Per Fiscal Year (e.g. School Districts, Schools, Students, Educators, Other)

Fiscal Year	Number of Beneficiaries
2024	2 schools, 4 teachers

Programmatic Changes Since Inception (If Any)

This is the first year and only year of funding to support the collaboration between schools to develop model materials in support of ECE programs.

Program Evaluation or Evaluation of Major Findings

Further expanding involved educators and schools to develop and refine model materials would be beneficial to the project's overall efficiency. To address this, establishing a dedicated workgroup could prove to be a valuable use of time and resources. Such a collaborative effort would allow stakeholders to jointly determine and develop the most relevant and impactful materials. Securing additional funding to expand and revise the early childhood education toolkit would significantly enhance our ability to provide comprehensive, up-to-date resources. This investment would not only improve the quality of the existing toolkit but also allow for the inclusion of new, research-based strategies and tools to better support early childhood educators and learners.

Major Challenges Faced by the Program

The contract implementation encountered several challenges related to the timeline for completing model materials. Notably, there were delays in contract development, which impacted the overall project schedule. Additionally, the process of recruiting qualified teachers proved more time-consuming than initially anticipated. Once educators were secured, allocating sufficient time for them to develop original materials presented another hurdle. This was particularly complex given the requirement to create content independent of existing for-profit curricula or materials from other state agencies. These factors collectively contributed to extending the timeframe needed to produce the final model materials. While the required date of completion was January 1, the contract was executed in December and final materials were received in February.

Future Opportunities

Expanding and revising the early childhood education toolkit would significantly enhance our ability to provide comprehensive, up-to-date resources. This investment would not only improve the quality of the existing toolkit but also allow for the inclusion of new, research-based strategies and tools to better support early childhood educators and learners. Future work could include convening of K–12 and postsecondary partners to ensure aligned articulation for supporting pathways and preparing well-educated early childcare providers.

Other Relevant Information

We will continue to inform teachers of these resources, gather them when appropriate, and provide professional development opportunities as time and funding allows.

Schools/Districts Receiving Assistance

[Click here to see a list of all OSPI grant recipients in the 2024 Fiscal Year.](#)

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