Safety is Everyone’s Responsibility!

Active Supervision is one of the most important practices for keeping children safe. Updates have been made to the Active Supervision Plan and the Daily Classroom Safety Checklist. Read more in Health, Nutrition, & Safety.

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The Connector is a monthly newsletter providing information for the PSESD Early Learning Program.
General News

Professional Development Survey: Disabilities Services
Disabilities Consultants

We’re taking a pulse of the Professional Development Trainings you would like provided by your Disabilities Consultants through a Google Survey. This information will be used to gather ideas and needs for Professional Development this 23-24 Program Year and future planning. The survey should take less than 5 minutes and is open to all. Thank you for your role in supporting high quality services for our youngest learners!

Or paste this URL into your browser: https://forms.gle/eGX8At89L5uDYULn6

Clarity on Early Learning & Special Education Enrollment
Tamara Rosario | Disabilities Consultant

As announced in the September Center Director Updates call, there is a new FAQ on the ELPM about early learning and special education enrollment (see Disabilities Frequently Asked Questions: Dual Enrollment and Double Dipping). This FAQ clarifies already existing practices.

- Children can access both IDEA services and EHS/HS/ECEAP enrollment and
- Children can receive their IFSP/IEP services in their EHS/HS/ECEAP setting.

See the FAQ for answers and explanations in alignment with the WAC, Performance Standards, and IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act).

Early Learning Program Manual (ELPM) Directory
Venissia Buyco | Senior Coordinator, Management Systems

We have a new and improved ELPM Directory on EarlyLearningWA.org! Click each video link below to learn how to navigate it, or watch the full playlist. There are 6 videos and the longest is only 2 minutes!

- Getting to the Directory
- Navigating the Directory – Option A
- Navigating the Directory – Option B
- Filtering for What You Need
- Opening Word Documents
- Opening Excel Documents

Click the Closed Captioning button (CC) if needed, and the Settings button to change the playback speed. A step-by-step guide is also available.

Visit our Website Support page to learn more and contact Venissia Buyco with any additional questions.
Policy Council

Quincy Stone | Parent Leadership Manager

Policy Council is the integration of parent and family engagement within program systems and services. It is centered around promoting parent voice and inclusion in major program decisions while supporting parent engagement and leadership development. Parent representatives are elected by their peers to represent the ideas and concerns of the families at their site/center. Once elected, representatives participate in the decision-making processes that directly impact our children and families. Policy Council members work in partnership with program administrators and the PSESD Board to develop, review, and approve the following: policies, strategic directions, criteria for ERSEA, funding applications, budget recommendations, personnel, and much more!

Important Information

The first Policy Council meeting for newly elected parent representatives is Tuesday, November 21, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. Please submit the required Policy Council Representative Notice and Verification Form for each of your site’s representatives as soon as they are elected.

To confirm your center’s required number of elected Policy Council representatives, please see the Policy Council Composition Chart on the Policy Council page.

Please note, there is no longer a “Policy Council Alternate” position; there are only elected representatives as outlined on the Policy Council Composition Chart and in the Policy Council Bylaws.

Learn More

Information Sessions provide a snapshot of what Policy Council is all about! These one-hour sessions provide curious parents with an overview of PC and opportunity to ask questions.

PC Trainings provide prospective and elected parents with a deeper dive into the history and framework, roles and responsibilities of representatives, shared governance structure, and much more!

Recruitment

We can help you line up a current or past PC representative to speak at your orientation or parent meeting. Contact your FE Coach or Quincy Stone to submit your request.

Parent Leadership Office Hours
This is open to PSESD and center/site staff only. Bring all your Parent Leadership (Policy Council, Peer Programs, Advocacy Day) related questions and we’ll ensure you get the support you seek!
Policy & Legislative Updates
Lori Pittman | Early Learning & K to 12 Policy, Advocacy and Government Relations
Check back next month!

Inclusion Corner
Dani Hoffman, Johna Rhooms, Tamara, Rosario, Malena Swarthout | Disabilities Consultants
Welcome to Inclusion Corner, where we discuss concepts, ideas, resources, and research that help us better understand what Inclusion is and how we can each be an Inclusion Champion for the children in our EHS, HS and ECEAP Early Learning environments! As we settle into a brand-new Program Year, we wanted to take time for this quarter’s issue to discuss the basics of what Inclusion actually means and address some common (and great!) questions you may have in your Inclusion journey. We hope you enjoy this overview, and don’t forget to take a peek at the amazing resources we share near the end of the article for some handy tools that may help you get your inclusion gears turning for the Program Year! Read this quarter’s Inclusion Corner issue.

Join us November 1, 12-1 pm for our First Inclusion Corner PLC of the 23-24 Program Year! We will build off of this quarter’s publication of Inclusion Corner by discussing what Inclusion is and why Inclusion matters. As always, participants who are able to join and engage in the full hour are eligible for 1 free STARS hour. You can sign up for this PLC by registering on the Training and Meeting Calendar, and we look forward to seeing you there!
Data and Monitoring

Monitoring for October
Taryn Kyle | Program Manager, Monitoring and Compliance

Below are the Monitoring items that begin in October. All of the items listed below do not necessarily get monitored just in October; they are spread through a multiple month cycle. Please see our Monitoring Protocols for the full description and timeline of each item. The Monitoring Protocols can be found in Early Learning Program Manual (ELPM) > Documentation and Monitoring > Monitoring.

- Enrollment
- Health & Nutrition Accountability
- Immunizations
- SAD-T & Initial Active Supervision
- Site Safety
- Staff Requirements

ECEAP Child Entry in ChildPlus
Dawn Patterson | Data Systems Technician

- All FSS should enroll children in ChildPlus who are enrolling in the 2023-24 ECEAP Program Year. Until children are enrolled, it will not be possible to enter attendance for them and there will be no children in Teaching Strategies GOLD.

- If a 2023-24 program term has not been created for a child you wish to enroll, please contact your Data Technician so they can create one for you.

- Data Technicians will be doing all child/family entry for the 2023-24 year. FSS/FAs will need to assign a classroom to enroll the child in ChildPlus.

For questions, please contact your Data Technician.

All Programs: Enrollment in ChildPlus
Tiffany Lyons | Data Systems Technician

- Once children are entered in ChildPlus, check to ensure they have the correct classroom ID and enroll them only when they have attended their first day in class. Please do not pre-enroll children into classes.

- In ELMS, enter Actual Start Dates on the child’s first day of class. Use the “Bulk Update” link from the Child tab in ELMS. A child is not counted as “enrolled” until they have an Actual Start Date entered.

- Check to ensure the enrollment date is the same in both ChildPlus and ELMS. The two systems must match.

- ChildPlus automatically adds an entry date when children are enrolled. The entry date is the first day attended. Enrolling children on their first day of class will ensure the attendance module is available for teachers to enter daily attendance and prevent the need for entering back attendance.
Data and Monitoring

HS/EHS/ECEAP Programs: Attendance Entry in ChildPlus
Tiffany Lyons | Data Systems Technician

- Attendance entry must be entered daily. If that is not possible, please enter by the end of the week. When documenting attendance electronically in ChildPlus or on the attendance worksheets, please use the attendance codes for HS/EHS and ECEAP listed in the Attendance and Meal Count Procedure.
  - ECEAP and Head Start/Early Head Start attendance and absence reason codes are different. This is important to remember for centers/sites that offer multiple programs. ECEAP codes begin on page 3 of the procedure and Head Start/Early Head Start codes begin on page 5.

- When class is closed at any time during the week, please change the classroom status in ChildPlus from open to closed, using the drop-down menu.
  - Please do not keep the class day in open status and do not enter attendance code N.

For questions, please contact Tiffany Lyons.

Center Directors: Electronic Attendance Point of Contact
Anjanette Abbe | Data Systems Technician

Please review your Electronic Attendance Point of Contact (POC) assignments to ensure the information is still accurate for your site. If the POC has changed, please submit the information to your Team Manager and communicate with your staff so they are aware.

Update: Drop and Transfer Requests
Tiffany Lyons | Data Systems Technician

Drops and Transfers requests are now completed through an online form: Drop Request | Transfer Request

These forms are also available in the Early Learning Program Manual (ELPM) under ERSEA: Transitions and in the Forms Library.

ECEAP: ELMS Monthly Report
Sue Gettmann | Application Specialist

ELMS Monthly reports are due each month. It can be started on the last day of each month.

- **Family Support:** Submit Class in ELMS by 5th of each month.

- **Center Directors:** Submit Site in ELMS by 10th of each month.
Center Directors

E-Alerts from September 2023

Also check your inbox for any additional emails sent by your Team Manager.

9/18/23: New Program Year Info
9/27/23: PSESD USDA Contract Changes/Updates

Center Director Meetings

Check the Center Director page monthly for Zoom links, recorded updates, and recorded meetings.

October’s Center Director Meeting
Taryn Kyle | Program Manager, Monitoring & Compliance

Our first Center Director’s Meeting will be in-person at the PSESD Renton Office. We are looking forward to a time of connection, celebration, and beginning our year with “How Do We Know” and Data Utilization. The in-person Center Director’s meeting will be from 9 am to 3 pm and lunch will be provided. Please register on the Training and Meeting Calendar! If you are unable to make it, please send another representative from your Center. Registrations must be completed by October 12. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Self-Assessment and School Readiness Goals
Taryn Kyle | Program Manager, Monitoring & Compliance

Please take a moment to watch the CD Updates video if you have not already. During the updates, information on our Self-Assessment process and the Programmatic School Readiness Goals was shared.

We will be thinking through our School Readiness Goal process differently for next program year. This year we need to hear where you and your center are at with School Readiness Goals. Please take this quick survey to share.

Staff Information Forms
Taryn Kyle | Program Manager, Monitoring & Compliance

Please complete the appropriate online Staff Information Form as soon as you know of any staff changes.

We know it is a busy time of the year, and as a new program year begins, many new staff are hired. Please refer to the Hiring and Personnel Management Guide in ELPM: Program Administration when submitting SIFs for any new hire or changes that have occurred. Please remember to submit Medical Release Forms (that include proof of MMR, TB and COVID vaccines), Verification of Parent Participation (VPP), cleared Portable Background Check (PBC), and transcripts for those positions that it is required. As new SIFs are being submitted to PSESD, staff are working hard to get new staff access to the platforms that they need. Monitoring will occur 3 times per year for all staff hiring qualifications and hiring requirements.
Deliverables

Taryn Kyle | Program Manager, Monitoring & Compliance

It is that time of year again when many deliverables are due. All deliverables can be found within each content area’s To-Do Lists. Some deliverables will now be submitted to elmmonitoring@psesd.org.

Below you will see all the Deliverables due in September and how each can be submitted:

- Center Calendars were due last Spring. As a friendly reminder, please submit monthly revisions to your Team Manager as changes occur.
- Site Readiness & Safety Checklist is due before classes begin. Submit to elmmonitoring@psesd.org.
- Active Supervision Plans were due September 30. Submit to your Education Coach.
- Safe Arrival, Departure, and Transportation Self-Assessment Plans were due September 30. Submit to elmmonitoring@psesd.org.
- Insurance Certificates are due as renewals occur. Please submit those to your Team Manager.
- Facility & Lease Agreements were due September 30. Please submit those to your Team Manager.

*Both the Site Readiness & Safety Checklist and the Active Supervision Plan are paid deliverables. Once received, they will trigger communication with Early Learning Fiscal.

Important Reminders

Talena Dixon | Director, Program Operations & ECEAP

- Contracts: ECEAP and EHS CCP contracts are out. If you haven’t signed, please do so right away. Head Start contracts will be coming in the next few weeks. In preparation for signing, please watch for an email from Mike Condardo asking you to confirm your contract signers.
- COLA: If you requested a contract amendment for HS to cover staff salary increases prior to the start of the November 1 contract year, amendments are in process.
- Staff Compensation and Operating Budgets: For ECEAP and EHS CCP, please submit these 2 items to ELfiscal@psesd.org by September 30. For the Operating Budget, please share your real costs which may mean that the budget may not balance. We would like to see the actual cost it takes to run your program.
Education

Al’s Pals
Aeryn King | Program Manager, Education Services
In October, Head Start and ECEAP Teachers will have access to Al’s Pal’s via the Creative Curriculum Cloud. Al’s Pals is a SEL curriculum for preschool that provides young children with the skills to prepare for life’s challenges through interactive lessons, engaging puppets, original music, and impactful teaching approaches.

- Cultivate Conflict Resolution and Problem-Solving Skills
- Help Children Manage Feelings and Behaviors
- Build Positive Relationships & Prevent Bullying
- Create Caring, Cooperative Classrooms
- Teach Children to Make Healthy Choices
- Build Authentic Family Partnerships

Training on how to best use this curriculum will be available in November and May. Information and registration will be on the Training and Meeting Calendar.

Open-Ended Questions in the Early Learning Classroom
Education Coaches
Open-ended questions create meaningful opportunities for learning, prompting children to reason and reflect while encouraging their use of language. In the recorded webinar, Open-Ended Questions in the Early Learning Classroom, Teachstone Training’s Chief Strategy Officer Dr. Rebecca Berlin shares tips on using open-ended questions to improve classroom interactions with young learners.

Curriculum Fidelity Focus: Interactions
Education Coaches
Education Coaches are visiting sites again, providing support in many areas. One specific foundational support is Coaching to Curriculum Fidelity. We know that early childhood classrooms that demonstrate strong fidelity i.e., organized environment, curriculum and assessment resource implementation as developers intended are more likely to have a positive impact on children’s learning, development, and school readiness. The Curriculum Fidelity tool sections are Physical Environment, Structure, Teacher-Child interactions, Families and Assessment. During the 2023-24 school year, Coaches will primarily focus on Interactions.

Teaching Strategies has Exciting New Features!
Education Coaches
Smart Suggestions for Checkpoints is a new feature designed to significantly reduce the time it takes for teachers to complete checkpoint ratings. This feature provides suggested checkpoint ratings based on the preliminary levels that teachers have already entered in documentation. Click Smart Suggestions for Checkpoints Quick-Hit Video for more information.

Preschool teachers using The Creative Curriculum Cloud and/or GOLD now have access to micro-learning videos embedded within all digital Intentional Teaching Experiences in the Teach area! With 262 total micro-learning videos (223
more than what was originally released in March 2023), there is now a video offering implementation guidance for every Preschool Intentional Teaching Experience. Click Digital Intentional Teaching Experience for more information.

Questions? Please reach out to your Education Coach.

Developmental Concerns Checklist At-a-Glance

Disabilities Consultants

The Developmental Concerns Checklist (DCC) is a comprehensive guide to empower staff and families in the referral and evaluation process for special education services. It’s a companion guide to the ASQ-3 screening process to ensure that families’ concerns and ASQ results are accurately captured and followed up on. The DCC form:

A. Is a step-by-step instruction.
B. Captures a family’s decisions.
C. Documents our requirements to inform and empower families to access referral, evaluation, and IDEA qualifications over time.

Remember: When there are developmental concerns, we have responsibilities to families to provide support and share their rights to referral and evaluation. If the family brings up developmental concerns or when a child’s ASQ-3 screening results in Rescreen/Monitor or Referral Indicated, we begin the Developmental Concerns Checklist (EHS/HS form and ECEAP form). On the ELPM, we have DCC walkthrough videos for EHS/HS (+ video transcript) and ECEAP (+ video transcript). Reach out to your primary Disabilities Consultants with any questions.

Office Hours: Incorporating IFSPs and IEPs into Early Learning Spaces

Disabilities Consultants

As we welcome new and returning children with IFSPs and IEPs into our programs and get to know each child’s strengths, you might have questions about individualizing and implementing accommodations. Come hang out with us! The Disabilities Consultants Teams is holding two office hour sessions on how to read IFSPs/IEPs and pull-out important information to inform individualizing supports and lesson planning. See the graphic to the right. Zoom Link is on the Training and Meeting Calendar for October.

Your primary Disabilities Consultant can meet with staff at any point in the program year to provide this technical assistance and consultation.
October Celebrating Bilingual Child Month!
Maha Shamdeen, Lindsay Belden, Michelle Williams-Nelson, Jesse Acosta | Dual Language Learners Coaches
October is celebrating Bilingual child month! Bilingual Month, celebrated in different regions, aims to raise awareness about the benefits of speaking multiple languages and foster appreciation for linguistic diversity. During this period, communities engage in cultural activities, educational initiatives, and advocacy efforts that promote multilingualism and inclusivity. It serves as a platform to celebrate diverse languages and their positive impact on society. Visit October is Celebrating the Bilingual Child Month to adopt a few tips on celebrating bilingual child month and share them with parents!

Multilingual Services

Interpreter Directory
JoAnna Williams-Diggs | Senior Coordinator, Multilingual Services
Make sure to click the orange Interpreter Directory button in your monthly Connector newsletter email to get the most up-to-date information!

ERSEA
Martha Waiters | ERSEA Consultant

ERSEA Collaboration Starting Up
We’ve just begun this year and yet it’s time to start thinking about changes to ERSEA for 2024-25. Please come to our first ERSEA Collaboration of the year on October 4 from 9 to 11 am. Our main topic will be Recruitment. Please read the 2023-24 ERSEA Procedure pages 1-8 and review the Recruitment Plan. Come with your experience and ideas to improve our guidance, forms, and resources around Recruitment. The collaboration will be followed by ERSEA Drop In from 11 am to noon. Join through the Training and Meeting Calendar.
ERSEA Tip – Significant Decrease in Income

What can you do if you’ve collected 12 months of income from a family, but it no longer reflects their current income situation?

- Record the 12 months of income on the EVF, just as you normally would.
- Collect documents from the family to verify their income for the most recent month.
- If the family’s income has decreased enough to change eligibility status or selection points and the income decrease was not by choice, have them fill out and sign an Income Statement.
- Use the Current Month section on the second page of the EVF to record their month of income and multiply it by 12. This is the income you will use to determine eligibility and to assign them income points. Don’t forget to fill in the reason for the decrease in income.
- Select “Annual/12-month period and current month – Significant decrease in income” as the eligibility period.

Family Engagement

Fall Has Arrived!
Kathy Binkley | Family Engagement Coach
There are so many things going on this time of year! Enrollment is going strong. You’ve been working hard, welcoming families, and filling up classrooms with children ready to have fun and soak in all the learning opportunities around them. Overview Interdisciplinary Staffings are underway, Home Visit Planning is beginning to happen, and Parent Leadership is off to a great start with Parent Center Committee Meetings beginning to be planned in partnership with parents. Please see the Family Engagement Procedure and check out the Family Support Deliverables/To Do Lists every month.

Onboarding New Family Support Staff (Required)
The first Group Onboarding Session is coming up fast! The first session is October 6. If you’re new in your role in family support and hired as of May 1, 2023, please register for this training on the Training and Meeting Calendar. If you were hired prior to May 1, 2023 and would like to participate in the group training, there may be an opportunity for you to do so in the Group Onboarding Session that begins in January 2024. For more information about the Group Onboarding for new family support staff, please see the September Connector: Family Engagement or contact your FE Coach.

The First Year Club (Optional)
The First Year Club is a great opportunity for new family support staff, hired as of May 1, 2023, to dive a little deeper into some targeted areas of the family support scope of work. The first date in the series is October 18, 2023. Please register on the Training and Meeting Calendar.

Peer Learning Community (PLC)
PLCs are an opportunity for Family Support to come together and learn from each other on a variety of topics. We are offering 3 PLCs this program year. Please see the dates, times, and topics below. These sessions will be held virtually and will be led by your fellow FSS. Go to the Training and Meeting Calendar to register.

- October 11, 1-2 pm: Mobility Mentoring
• January 10, 1-2:30 pm: Family Engagement

• April 24, 1-2:30 pm: Resource Sharing

**Fall Visits and Family Goal Setting – SMART Goals!**

• Supporting Parent/Guardian in creating goals using the SMART format is effective in helping families meet their Goals!

• Be sure the family’s goal includes each letter of the acronym.

• Family Goals are not just another place to write Child Goals. They are written to support the parent/guardian in their journey towards Economic Stability and Self-Reliance, supporting their vision for themselves and their family.

• Mobility Mentoring is required for ECEAP Programs, and the resources may also be useful tools for HS and EHS family support staff. Check out the [DCYF Website: ECEAP Bridge to Child and Family Self-Reliance](https://www.dcyf.gov/program-areas/early-childhood-education-and-care), ECEAP SMART Goal Map, and ECEAP Guidelines for Family Conversations

For support on writing SMART. Goals, reach out to your FE Coach.

## Fax Covers for Requesting IFSP/IEP Copies

### Disabilities Consultants

For children eligible for IFSP/IEP services, it’s super important to have full and complete copies of the evaluations and current IFSP/IEP as soon as possible to begin individualizing. Sometimes families provide copies at enrollment. Often, staff fax the school district or birth-to-three agency requesting copies. The Disabilities Team has created a Fax Cover specific to requesting IFSPs/IEPs and evaluations to be used with the **Release of Exchange of Confidential Information - Non-Health**.

1. Select and fill out the Fax Cover you need: [PSESD Fax Cover for Eval and IFSP Request (ESIT/Birth-to-Three)](https://www.psesd.org/) or [PSESD Fax Cover for Eval and IEP Request (School District)](https://www.psesd.org/)

2. Fill out the **Release of Exchange of Confidential Information - Non-Health** and obtain the family’s consent.

3. Fax the Fax Cover + Release or Exchange Form.

4. Receive your copy of the IFSP/IEP and eval. Give a copy to the educator and file in the family file after data entering.

If you have trouble getting a copy of the IFSP/IEP and evaluation, please connect with your Disabilities Consultant. We’re here to help!
Peer Programs

Quincy Stone | Parent Leadership Manager

Schedule a Virtual Teachback Today!

A great way to involve your families at the start of the year is to have another parent share about the available opportunities to currently enrolled families in Early Learning. This is easy to do with a Fall Teachback event! Get your parents connected with each other and excited about being involved in the program!

To request a teachback, please complete the Teachback Request Form.

Health & Literacy Training begins in January!
Encourage parents to attend training to become a Peer Health or Literacy Educator!

Parent Leadership Office Hours – open to PSESD and center/site staff only. Bring all your Parent Leadership (Policy Council, Peer Programs, Advocacy Day) related questions and we’ll ensure you get the support you seek!

mental health

Laurel Benz, Melissa Russell, and Mo McDonald | Mental Health Consultants

Mental Health Consultation in Early Learning

“ECEAP, Head Start and Early Head Start programs support the mental health of children, families, and staff every day. Early childhood mental health is the same as social and emotional well-being. It is a child’s developing capacity to express and regulate emotions, form trusting relationships, explore, and learn—all in the cultural context of family and community. The mental health of children and the adults that care for them is essential for school readiness”.

– Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center

What is a Mental Health Consultant?
Mental Health Consultation is a prevention-based approach that pairs a mental health consultant with adults who work with infants and young children in the different settings where they learn and grow, such as childcare, preschool, home visiting, early intervention, and their home. Mental health consultation is not about fixing or changing behaviors nor is it therapy. Mental Health Consultation equips caregivers to facilitate children’s healthy social and emotional development.
What do we do?
Mental Health Consultants develop relationships with the adults and caregivers in young children’s lives to build adults’ capacity and skills to strengthen and support the healthy social and emotional development of children – early and before formalized intervention is needed. We observe children in classrooms and then discuss what we’ve seen with teachers and caregivers to help provide support.

How do we do this?
- Provide informal observations in the classroom and at playgroups throughout the year
- Consultations with Teaching Staff and FSS
- Formal child specific observations/and/or consultations and/or home visits with signed parent permission
- Referrals for up to 10 sessions of free counseling for enrolled program families
- Provide staff training and parent education

Check out the detailed descriptions and the links to our forms in the ELPM. Read more about Head Start Policy and Regulation for Mental Health Services.

Contact us 😊

Laurel Benz
Mo McDonald
Melissa Russell

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Health, Nutrition, & Safety

⚠️ Safety is Everyone’s Responsibility!
Bethany Larsen | Program Manager, Safety
Active Supervision is one of the most important practices for keeping children safe. To improve Active Supervision guidance, wording has been added to the Active Supervision Plan. Please review the updated form and your assigned Education Coach will discuss it with you during onsite visits.

In addition, the Daily Classroom Safety Checklist has been updated to include a perimeter check of the outdoor area every time the class goes outside. The outdoor environment can change throughout the day and checking the area every time the class goes outside is important for children’s safety. Health Nutrition and Safety Coaches will be discussing this change with teachers and checking the Daily Classroom Safety Checklists binder or file to make certain this checklist is completed.
COVID-19 is Still in Our Communities
Health, Nutrition and Safety Team
Beginning September 25, 2023, four free COVID-19 tests per household are available through www.covid.gov/tests. Please share this updated information and resource with families.

Access to Washington State Immunization Information System
Xinying He | Nurse Consultant
If you don’t have access to the Washington Immunization Information system visit SecureAccess Washington Registration to gain access.

For help with access, please call WAIIS help desk 800-325-5599 or email waiishelpdesk@doh.wa.gov.

Updates Regarding USDA Contracts for Meals and Snacks
Rebecca Finkel and Shawn Peterson | Health, Nutrition and Safety Consultants/Registered Dietitians
This program year, there have been many changes to meal and snack contracts between centers and PSESD! To clarify expectations, please refer to the information in the 9/27/23 E-Alert.

Resources
For Staff and Families
Most resources will be moved to their respective content area pages on EarlyLearningWA at the end of each month.

- Immunization Resources for Childcare and Preschools:
  - Department of Health (DOH) flyer for immunization requirements
  - Parent Letter on DOH website
- Head Start News via Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center (ECLKC): Subscribe for email updates!
- Washington State Association of Head Start and ECEAP (WSA) News

Staff Strategies
EarlyLearningWA Quick Links

- Website Support (FAQs)
- Early Learning Program Manual (ELPM)
- Website Feedback Form

ELMS and GOLD Resources (ECEAP Only)

- ELMS Administrator's Manual
- ELMS Eligibility and Enrollment Manual

Find a Classroom and Find a Classroom Update Form
- Staff Professional Learning, ERSEA Committee, HSAC, etc.
- ELMS Support
- Teaching Strategies GOLD® Support
Center/Site & Classroom Activities

We would love to know about the awesome work at your center/site and in your classrooms!

If you’d like to be featured in the next Connector issue, email Venissia Buyco and Marilyn DeGuzman. Please ensure the following before submitting:

- **Photographed children must have initialed and signed parent consent** on the Emergency Treatment and Consent Form (“Photo/video to build partnerships with community agencies”). You do not need to submit proof of consent, but make sure it is on file.
  - If any child in a photograph does not have consent, please conceal their face(s) using shapes or smiley face emojis. Or use a different photo 😊

- **Center/site and classroom celebrations must not be associated with religious and commercial holidays or birthdays**, in accordance with the Early Learning Equity, Inclusion, and Classroom Celebration Policy.

Questions? Contact Venissia Buyco and Marilyn DeGuzman.