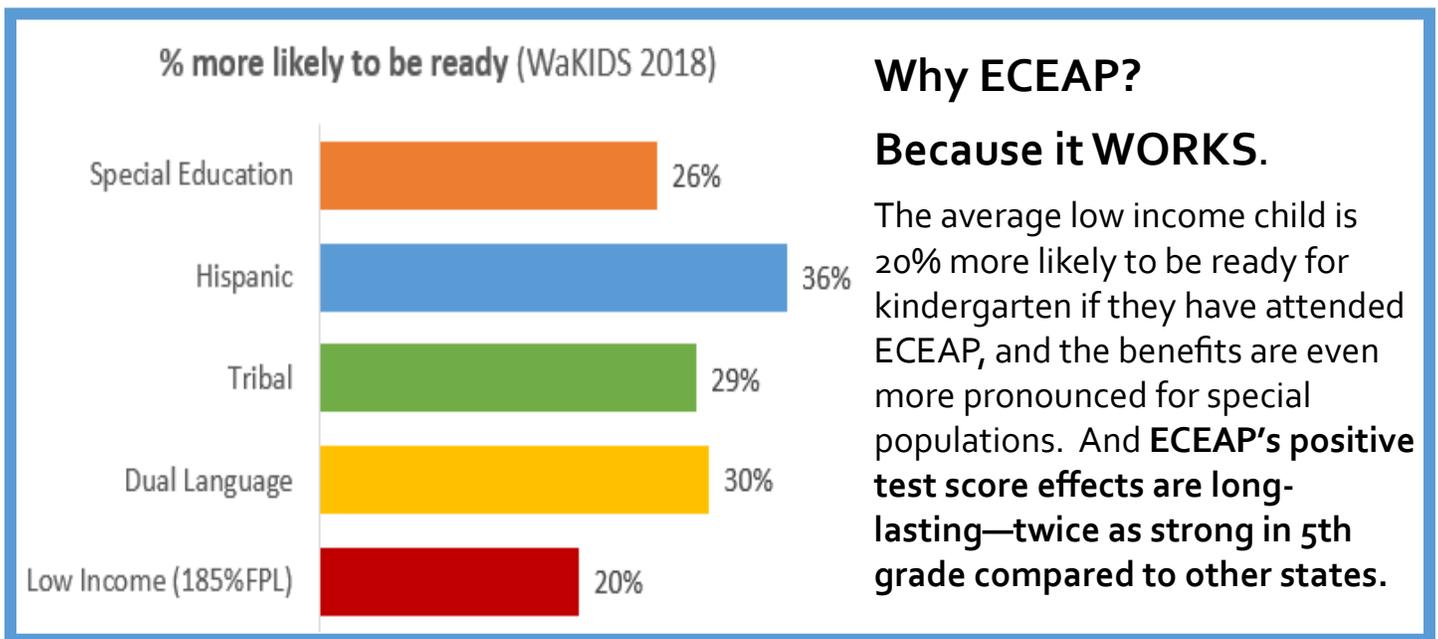


# Getting Our Kids Ready

Washington's **Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP)** is one of the highest quality state Pre-K programs in the country, yet every year more than **22,000 low income kids are not ready** when they start kindergarten.

**How can we solve this?**

**Expand and Strengthen ECEAP**



## ECEAP By the Numbers: What do we need in 2019 to prepare Washington's children?

**\$34K**

**Average salary  
of a BA Lead  
Teacher**

**Rate Increase.** \$34K puts ECEAP teachers well under 200% of the federal poverty level unless she has a partner working full time. Teacher quality is the single most important element that drives child outcomes in preschool, and programs are struggling to recruit and retain high quality staff.

**Solution: Increase per-child rate by 17%, in alignment with the DCYF Decision Package.**

# \$2K

**Expand Access to Children Who Need ECEAP.** A single mom with 2 kids making minimum wage is more than **\$2000 over the ECEAP limit of 110% FPL (\$22,858)**, and she has little access to quality child care. The vast majority of state pre-k programs serve children 185% FPL or higher. Because of our extreme eligibility standards, thousands of Washington kids who cannot afford high quality pre-k get left behind.

**Solution: Homeless, tribal, and families between 110% and 130% of FPL (\$27K for a family of 3) are very high need and should be included within the ECEAP entitlement, and children up to 200% FPL should be allowed when space is available to ensure we can enroll all children who need it.**

# #34

**Fund More School-Day and Extended Day Spaces.** We're **34th nationally in Pre-K access for 4-year olds**. ECEAP has twice the impact of the average state Pre-K program, but we don't fund enough spaces to reach enough children. And K-12 data shows that when children start behind, most do not catch up despite expensive interventions.

**Solution: Fund 3600 new ECEAP full school-day and extended day spaces in 2019-21.**

# 500

**New Classrooms.** Reaching entitlement with expanded access will require 450-500 classrooms. Many will be within existing child care centers, but many others will need to be renovated or built, and early learning programs do not have this kind of capital.

**Solution: \$55 million added to the Early Learning Facilities Fund for ECEAP/Child Care expansion.**

# 7%

**Early ECEAP.** We have a serious gap in high quality 0-3 services for high need families, and very little of what we have is center-based for working parents. Combined, **Early Head Start and Home Visiting reach only 7% of eligible infants and toddlers**. According to recent studies, participation in EHS leads to a long-term reduction in the likelihood that children were involved with the child welfare system.

**Solution: New Early ECEAP pilot along the lines of the very successful Early Head Start child care partnership.**

**For more information please contact:**

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*Sources: WA State Institute for Public Policy Outcome Evaluation of Washington State's ECEAP 2014; ERDC Early Learning Feedback Report 2017-18; Department of Children, Youth and Families ECEAP Outcomes Report 2017-18; National Institute for Early Education Research Preschool Yearbook*