

EOEL Updates - for the Early Learning Board Meeting, November 18, 2021
(as of November 12, 2021)

2021 Legislation

- *EOEL Legislative Requests*
 - We are still awaiting approval from the Governor on our legislative requests.

EOEL Public Prekindergarten Program

- *DOE Schools*
 - Application Update
 - As of October 31, 2021:
 - Total applications received: 578
 - Total applications approved: 481
 - Maximum enrollment (current): 403 seats
 - Comparison with previous years of applications received:

SY 18-19	SY 19-20	SY 20-21	SY 21-22
as of 10/31/18	as of 10/31/19	as of 10/31/20	as of 10/31/21
632	631	533	578

- Enrollment

SY 18-19 (Q1)	SY 19-20 (Q1)	SY 20-21 (Q1)	SY 21-22 (Q1)
415	448	239	317
SY 18-19 (Q4)	SY 19-20 (Q4)	SY 20-21 (Q4)	SY 21-22 (Q4)
426	462	302	Expected by 5/27/22

- Evaluation Study and Professional Learning on Evaluation Research
 - The EOEL pre-K team continues its work with UH College of Education. UH is conducting a study of the program’s Professional Learning Support for DOE staff who participate in the EOEL Public Prekindergarten Program. We expect a final report in June 2022, with plans for the dissemination of data and findings to ELB, professional groups, and partners thereafter.

Preschool Development Grant Birth through 5 (PDG B-5) Initial Grant

- *Earlychildhoodhawaii.com Website*
 - The www.earlychildhoodhawaii.com was temporarily down for about 3 weeks due to a lost website domain. The domain has been reclaimed and no website data was lost. Currently, the site is live again and users should not face any issue accessing the site or its content.
 - We continue building out the workforce supports section of the www.earlychildhoodhawaii.com website. We have begun the feedback process with external stakeholders as content experts to test pages that were built. We appreciate the time that our invited partners have taken to review and submit feedback.

- *2021 PDG B-5 All State Virtual Convening Announcement-October 2021*
 - EOEL would like to extend a mahalo to attendees of this year’s PDG B-5 All State Convening and for their assistance with engaging champions to discuss ideas to bring to our state. Conference material and recordings of all the sessions should be made available soon.
- *Champions Engagement*
 - The four-phase champion reengagement process will need to continue for 2 more strategic implementation plans. EOEL needs to begin steps to provide convening support for these two plans.
 - Champions of the various SIPs that have completed the reengagement process will receive a questionnaire if they have not already.

Head Start State Collaboration Office (HSSCO)

- *Head Start (HS)/Early Head Start (EHS) Grantee Updates*
 - Vaccination Mandates: Guidance is still pending from the Central Office of Head Start (OHS) as to how staff will need to comply with the Biden Administration’s order that federal workers, Head Start Programs and employers with more than 100 employees be vaccinated by January 2022. It is anticipated that an interim final rule will be disseminated by mid-November. The OHS Region 9 office has held several listening sessions with Region 9 grantees about the impact this ruling is having on their programs, especially since the details for compliance are still unclear.
 - In-Person Closures: HCAP Head Start on Oahu, which serves approximately 1,460 children and their families, had shut down all in-person services effective September 1. They have since reopened as of November 2nd.
 - The “Early Head Start Rising!” Campaign has been initiated by the National Head Start Association (NHSA) to serve 500,000 more infants and toddlers within the next 10 years. Currently, EHS grantees serve only 11 percent of eligible infants and toddlers, nationwide. NHSA is an advocacy organization and will be providing technical support to up to 10 state associations to develop infant/toddler policy agendas. The Head Start Association of Hawaii (HSAH) recently submitted its interest in being one of those state associations to work with NHSA.
- *Collaboration with State Partners*
 - The first of two listening sessions with cross-sector stakeholders and the HIDEO Education for Homeless Children and Youth program was held on November 2nd and November 13th. The HSSCO Director has been coordinating the planning of these sessions to support the EHCY program in spending some of its ARPA funds to connect more B-5 keiki experiencing homelessness to early childhood programs and services.
 - The Infant Early Childhood Behavioral Health Plan (IECBH) Plan Advisory Committee recently selected a person to serve as the Plan Coordinator, effective mid-November. This person will serve as a project manager to support the plan

implementation over the next two years, in collaboration with the Advisory Committee and other key stakeholders.

Communications

- *COVID-19 PSA*
 - There were some delays in October to ensure all integral stakeholders had input on the two concepts and scripts. After approval of the scripts, Hyperspective presented storyboards. EOEL reviewed these storyboards in consultation with both the Hawaii Departments of Human Services (DHS) and Health (DOH) and approved them in late October. Hyperspective then entered production on the two 30-second PSAs with a target of a mid-November completion date.
 - EOEL and DHS have secured commitments from the following organizations to help distribute the PSA: Department of Education, Department of Health Family Health Services Division, Early Childhood Action Strategy, Hawaii Association of Independent Schools, Hawaii Children’s Action Network, and Hawaii State Charter School Commission.
- *COVID-19 Vaccination for 5-11-Year-Olds*
 - Earlier this month, the CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky endorsed a recommendation to vaccinate children ages 5-11 against COVID-19 with the Pfizer-BioNTech pediatric vaccine. EOEL is in communication with DOH and DOE on messaging efforts. The above-mentioned PSAs were designed to complement their plans and in anticipation of imminent approval by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and recommendation by CDC. We look forward to adding to their drive to encourage vaccinations, especially to help keep children in our early childhood system safe.