

EOEL Updates - for the Early Learning Board Meeting, January 13, 2022
(as of January 6, 2022)

Legislative Updates

- *EOEL’s Legislative Priorities*
 - The Governor did not approve EOEL’s request for 2.0 FTE position counts and did approve the \$100,000 appropriation ceiling request for the Early Childhood Educator Stipend Program.
 - Our priorities for this legislative session are to maintain EOEL’s current budget to ensure continuity of existing programs and to expand programs and services such as FCIL programs and early childhood workforce supports.
- *Legislative Briefings*
 - The joint Senate Committees on Ways and Means and Education Informational Briefing on EOEL’s budget is scheduled for Thursday January 13, 2022 at 9:30am.
 - The House Committee on Finance Informational Briefing on EOEL’s budget is scheduled for Friday January 14, 2022 at 1:30pm.
 - The House Committee on Education Informational Briefing for EOEL is tentatively scheduled for Thursday January 20, 2022 at 2:00pm.
- *2022 Legislative Session*
 - Opening day is Wednesday January 19, 2022.
 - Bill introduction deadline is January 26, 2022. EOEL will review all bills introduced and extrapolate and track any that pertain to the Office or the early learning field at large.
 - We will work with other departments and stakeholders as appropriate to coordinate testimony in alignment with the Office’s mission, vision, and statutory responsibilities.
 - EOEL will keep ELB abreast of pertinent bills throughout the session.

EOEL Public Prekindergarten Program

- *DOE Schools*
 - Application Update
 - As of December 2021:
 - Total applications received: 584
 - Total applications approved: 491
 - Maximum enrollment (current): 402 seats
 - Comparison with previous years of applications received:

SY 18-19	SY 19-20	SY 20-21	SY 21-22
as of 12/2018	as of 12/2019	as of 12/2020	as of 12/2021
659	651	574	584

- 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 (Q2)
426	462	302	336

- 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.

Early Childhood State Plan and Sustaining PDG Activities

- *Hawaii PDG TA Plan*: The sustainability plan will be revisited and updated to ensure that it still meets the needs to sustain activities started by PDG B-5 in 2019 with assistance from PDG -5 National TA resource center and EOEL staff time.
- *Earlychildhoodhawaii.com*: It has been one year since the creation of the website.
 - The website has over 840 new users with 240 of them being returning users of the site.
 - There have been roughly 4,600 views to date. The top three pages viewed include: the home page with the state plan documents with 1,000 views, the strategic implementation plan page with 680 views, and the resource page with 490 views.
 - Every new user has at least one engaged session with the site, meaning sessions last 10 seconds or longer, have one or more conversion events, or have two or more views. There are more users that return weekly and monthly than daily.
- *Earlychildhood Website Buildout*: EOEL previously announced an impending launch of additional pages to earlychildhoodhawaii.com pertaining to workforce related content and geared towards those entering and currently working within the early childhood education field. Recognizing that workforce projects in the pipeline would significantly add value to what these webpages may offer and to create a more robust page, additional time is required to explore these opportunities and develop pages that are more effective and useful for the intended audience. This also allows us more time to coordinate with partners and build more source materials to create the type of content needed, and as such, the launch of additional workforce pages to the website is on hold. We appreciate the time that our invited partners have taken to review and submit feedback of the test pages.
- *SIP Champion Engagement*
 - Please refer to State Plan Monitoring Presentation and Handout.

Head Start State Collaboration Office (HSSCO)

- *Head Start (HS)/Early Head Start (EHS) Grantee Updates*
 - **Vaccination Mandates**: An Interim Final Rule (IFC) for HS staff vaccinations and masking was posted in the Federal Register in late November 2021. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) issued new Head Start Program Performance Standards (HSPPS) in December to outline the masking and COVID-19 vaccination requirement for grant recipient staff, as well as the timelines, exceptions and exemptions for each. Local programs are responsible

for establishing a process for implementing the standards. Since the issuing of the IFC, 25 states have filed preliminary injunctions regarding the enforcement of the Rule – grant recipients in those states are not required to comply with the Rule pending results of litigation.

- **Early Head Start Rising:** Representatives from the Head Start Association of Hawaii (HSAH) met with Kent Mitchell of the National Head Start Association (NHSA) in November to discuss the current infant/toddler landscape in Hawaii and to begin to map out a process for identifying an EHS policy agenda. This policy agenda is designed to elevate the critical need for infant/toddler care in Hawaii, including addressing some of the issues that are currently serving as barriers to access and availability of seats in Hawaii, with the desired outcome of making policy changes through administrative rules or legislative action.
- **Head Start Association of Hawaii (HSAH):** A quarterly board meeting will be held on January 12, at which time the board will be reviewing and discussing its 3-year strategic plan and its newly drafted EHS policy agenda.
- *Collaboration with State Partners*
 - Two listening sessions with cross-sector stakeholders were convened in November to identify activities, deliverables and system supports that will help connect more birth-5 keiki experiencing homelessness to early childhood programs and services through the use of ARPA Homeless Children and Youth funds. Ideas generated from approximately 40 stakeholders were categorized and forwarded to the HDOE Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) program to help inform actions going forward. The HHSSCO Director will continue to work closely with the McKinney-Vento State Coordinator around the use of ARPA funds to support the birth-5 population, and is currently helping to coordinate follow-up meetings with listening session participants.
 - The Infant Early Childhood Behavioral Health (IECBH) Plan Advisory Committee has begun working with a contracted Plan Coordinator (since mid-November) to identify prioritized first steps for plan implementation. Plan components are under review to eliminate redundancies, prioritize actions and create new timelines, and a critical first step will be to establish a Leadership team to assist in implementation efforts.

Communications

- *COVID-19 Vaccination PSAs*
 - We officially launched our public service announcements to encourage those who care about young children to get vaccinated right before Thanksgiving. EOEL worked with contractor Hyperspective to produce two 30-second animated spots, complementary 15-second spots, and a handful of social media graphics with accompanying caption text. The contractor put these materials together in a toolkit, which was shared with partners to disseminate across their channels. ELB members who are interested in accessing this toolkit may contact Communication Specialist Ke'ōpū Reelitz.

- Community members may access the 30- and 15-second PSAs on [EOEL's Youtube channel here](#). You may also share these videos from this channel.