

EOEL Updates - for the Early Learning Board Meeting, September 9, 2021
(as of September 2, 2021)

2021 Legislation

- *EOEL Legislative Requests*
 - Departmental legislative priorities will be reviewed by the Governor’s office over the next few months.

EOEL Public Prekindergarten Program

- *DOE Schools*
 - Application Update
 - As of August 31, 2021:
 - Total applications received: 548
 - Total applications approved: 461
 - Maximum enrollment (current): 393 seats
 - Comparison with previous years of applications received:

SY 18-19	SY 19-20	SY 20-21	SY 21-22
as of 8/31/18	as of 8/31/19	as of 8/31/20	as of 8/31/21
602	603	514	548

- *Early Learning Academy Professional Learning Sessions*
 - Through the Early Learning Academy, we will offer a series of professional learning sessions for private and public EC educators during Spring 2022 entitled ***Celebrating Childhood***. Details forthcoming.

Early Childhood Educator Stipend Program

- With the signing of Act 210, SLH 2021, EOEL will administer the Hawai’i Early Childhood Educator Stipend Program as noted in §302L-A.
 - The Office has begun preliminary work to establish the structural components required to design and implement the Stipend Program, which includes fiscal and contract related matters.
 - We are extremely grateful to the Samuel N. and Mary Castle Foundation for their commitment of funds towards this important program.
 - We remain in ongoing conversations with UH College of Education, a critical partner in the development and implementation of the program.

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

- *Re-engagement Process of Strategic Implementation Plans*
 - 4 of 6 strategic implementation plans have completed the four-phased reengagement process, which allowed teams to review and assess how priorities may have changed due to the impacts of the pandemic and begin to plan how work can move forward.

- This process will need to continue for 2 more strategic implementation plans. EOEL plans to provide convening support for these two plans and its champions in the coming months to complete the engagement process for all plans.
- Logic models for each strategic implementation plan were reviewed and feedback was collected from champions to further develop a tool to monitor on-going progress and evaluate impact at the end of the plan’s lifetime. Feedback has been reviewed and, while some clarification is needed, we have begun to incorporate feedback into the PPE plan.
- For champions that have gone through the re-engagement process, the next steps are to introduce a questionnaire as a reporting and communication tool and to build a process that allows periodic updates to be shared between champions and EOEL.
- *Earlychildhoodhawaii.com Website*
 - We continue our focus on building out www.earlychildhoodhawaii.com starting with the workforce supports section that features pages with links to: helpful workforces resources and organizations; information on academic and professional degrees and certificates for early childhood professionals and to-be professionals; and foundational, key documents meant to enrich and inform our perspectives in building quality supports for workforce development. We will be beginning a review process of these pages with EOEL staff and various external partners.
- *2021 PDG B-5 All State Virtual Convening Announcement-October 2021*
 - We continue to encourage ELB members to complete [this survey](#) to provide feedback on which topics we should consider prioritizing for our state and to collect information from those who may be interested in attending. For more information regarding the virtual convening, [visit this site](#).

Head Start State Collaboration Office (HSSCO)

- *Head Start (HS)/Early Head Start (EHS) Grantee Updates*
 - The 2021-2022 school year began in August for HS and EHS programs, with most services provided in-person. HS/EHS programs anticipate serving 2,285 preschoolers and just under 700 pregnant women, infants and toddlers this school year.
 - The current expectation from the federal Office of HS is that all programs will be at full enrollment and all comprehensive services provided in-person by January 2022. Unfortunately, the increased number of COVID-19 cases statewide - both positive test and close contact cases within HS/EHS programs – has resulted in the temporary closures of many in-person classrooms and home-visiting programs, with the resumption of virtual services being provided until public health conditions improve.
 - HS/EHS programs on HIDOE campuses are considered “contractors or vendors” and are now subject to HIDOE’s vaccination attestation policy.
- *Collaboration with State Partners*
 - Plans continue to be coordinated for a listening session with EC stakeholders and the HIDOE Education of Homeless Children and Youth Program (possibly in

October) to identify ways American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds can be used to increase the enrollment of B-5 children experiencing homelessness into early care and education programs and settings.

- The Infant Early Childhood Behavioral Health Plan (IECBH) plan Advisory Committee continues to work on first step implementation efforts, including the successful securing of funds for a coordinator, and working with a contractor around fiscal sustainability recommendations.

Communications

- *COVID-19 PSA*
 - EOEL has partnered with the Department of Human Services to produce a campaign to encourage parents, caregivers and child care providers to get vaccinated to keep kids safe. Our agencies are in communication and are coordinating with the Department of Health, as the state's public health agency. The small purchase was awarded to a contractor last week and work will begin in the next two weeks between our two agencies and the contractor. We anticipate a launch in October and will be reaching out to community and agency partners to help spread the word of the campaign.