

EOEL Updates - for the Early Learning Board Meeting, August 11, 2022
(as of August 5, 2022)

Legislative Updates

- *A presentation on legislative related proposals for EOEL will be held at the ELB meeting on August 11, 2022 meeting.*

EOEL Public Prekindergarten Program

- The Memorandum of Agreement between the EOEL and the State of Hawai'i Department of Education to Implement a High-Quality Prekindergarten Program for FY 21-22 is extended for two (2) more state fiscal years. The new termination date is June 30, 2024.
- Pre-K Expansion with DOE
 - 23 schools have applied to participate.
- Applications from Families for EOEL Public Pre-K Program as of July 29, 2022
 - Total number of applications received statewide: 518 applications
 - Total number of applications approved statewide: 427 applications
 - Total number of applications denied statewide: 48 applications
 - Potential reasons for denied applications are:
 - child does not meet age requirement (too young)
 - child or family situation do not fall into the priority categories for at-risk (e.g., income at or below 300% FPG; foster care; unstable housing or homelessness; special education services with gen ed placement; dual language or EL)
 - Maximum enrollment: 384
 - Notes
 - Applications are accepted throughout the school year.
 - Applications that are incomplete or under review are not identified as *approved or denied*.
 - The maximum enrollment at each site addresses the health and safety needs of the different school communities.

Early Childhood State Plan and Engagements

- [2022 Preschool Development Renewal Grant Funding Opportunity](#)
 - EOEL has drafted a work plan in order to execute an application on behalf of Hawai'i. As we wait for more information and as an initial step of our work plan, EOEL will invite the early childhood community, especially those who have been connected to work of the past PDG B-5 and the Early Childhood State Plan, to submit ideas and information via a google form this month. EOEL will use this information to inform Hawai'i's proposal.
- *Early Childhood State Plan Monitoring*
 - Monitoring activities for the State Plan has been transferred from the capacity and resources (CR) subcommittee to the strategic implementation subcommittee (SIS). The SIS has started discussions with EOEL staff to fulfill recommended actions that support monitoring efforts, this includes

presentations to ELB on progress of strategic implementation plans and the launch of the state plan data dashboard which highlights state plan vital signs.

- *Ongoing Work:*
 - *Champions:* Champion and partners of the SIPs continue work on actions and other work that support overall state plan objectives. As we look to 2023, the last year of implementation, EOEL will focus on gathering champions and reflecting on work since 2020 and to see how work can continue.
 - *2019 PDG B-5 resources:* EOEL continues to work with partners to sustain resources created by 2019 PDG B-5 grant. Current discussions and work focus on the *Transition into Kindergarten Toolkit* and the *Community of Practice Facilitators Manual*.

Head Start State Collaboration Office (HSSCO)

- Head Start (HS)/Early Head Start (EHS) programs brought staff back from summer break for pre-service training, initial home visits with families, and classroom preparation during the last two weeks in July. The first day of the new school year occurs on different days for programs in August.
- The Office of Head Start (OHS) is strongly encouraging local grantees to implement workforce development strategies, including developing incentive and retention plans, policies and practices; examining budget and funding available to increase staff wages; exploring improved benefit packages; updating wage comparability studies to include comparison with elementary school staff; and conducting frequent staff “stay surveys”. Workforce shortages are one of the biggest challenges currently for local programs to be at full enrollment this fall. At least one HS grantee has indicated that fewer classrooms will open this fall due to staffing shortages.
- A “meet and greet” on August 10th between the new HIDOE Early Learning Specialist in OCID, the HIDOE Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program Early Learning Navigator, and HS/EHS Directors was coordinated by the HSSCO Director to hopefully set the stage for enhanced partnerships with HIDOE this school year.
- The annual “Family Engagement and Cultural Effectiveness” Conference for the OHS Region 9 will take place again this year in Kailua-Kona from October 18-21. The conference title is “Thriving Together with You!” Workshop proposals are being accepted for review. Interested individuals can contact Ben Naki or Chris Jackson if interested in submitting a proposal.

Communications

- *Community Engagement*
 - The EOEL Act 046 stakeholder engagement team has begun hosting stakeholder meetings. The engagement team is scheduling sessions with providers, including family child care providers, throughout the next two months. Please contact Jordana, EOEL’s Government Affairs Specialist, with any questions at Jordana.ferreira@eoel.hawaii.gov.

Status of Personnel and Positions

- Communication Specialist II: interviews on Aug. 29 and 31

- Educational Specialist II - Workforce Development: interviews in process
- Business Management Officer I: awaiting confirmation of a panel participant, working to complete interview by the end of August
- Administrative Services Assistant: awaiting confirmation of a panel participant, working to complete interview by the end of August
- Educational Specialist II (EOEL Public PreK): selection made, awaiting candidate's acceptance of the offer of employment
- Program Specialist IV (EOEL PreK): (temp position extended) TA
- Office Assistant IV (EOEL PreK): in recruitment process