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k12.wa.us



Washington Office of Superintendent of  
**PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**  
Chris Reykdal, Superintendent

February 5, 2020

Dear Superintendents:

On January 24, 2020, Governor Inslee sent a letter requesting the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) work in collaboration with the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) to identify near-term administrative efficiencies and long-term strategies to improve the alignment and integration of high-quality early learning programs administered by both agencies. This request aligns with OSPI's vision of an equity-based, whole-child educational system and reflects the efforts of school districts striving to build early learning programs that close opportunity gaps and develop strong foundations for future learning.

Data from the Washington Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (WaKIDS) has consistently shown the need for greater attention to the developmental needs of our youngest students, whose skills and abilities at entry to kindergarten can be predictive of learning in the early years and beyond. The expansion of preschool programs, such as Head Start and the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP); new allowable uses of federal entitlements; and the emergence of [Transitional Kindergarten](#) have increased the resources available for serving young children in high-quality, inclusive settings. However, the difficulty of navigating multiple regulatory requirements stemming from different funding sources has hampered the growth of inclusive district-based programs.

The Governor's request includes the preparation of a report due September 1, 2020. This report is to contain an analysis of existing successes and challenges, as well as recommendations for streamlining regulatory functions. Both OSPI and DCYF look forward to working together and with district and community stakeholders to remove barriers and develop a long-term strategic plan that will increase access to high-quality, inclusive early learning opportunities for Washington's children.

February 5, 2020

Page 2

For more information about the Governor's letter or expanding early learning opportunities in your district, please contact Karma Hugo, Director of Early Learning at OSPI, at 360-725-6161 or [karma.hugo@k12.wa.us](mailto:karma.hugo@k12.wa.us).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris P.S. Reykdal". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chris Reykdal  
Superintendent of  
Public Instruction