



April 16, 2018

ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE UPDATE

Dear Family Child Care Provider,

Many providers are asking questions about the new electronic attendance system. These are some of the questions and concerns that I have recently received:

- ◆ What is it?
- ◆ Does my program have to participate?
- ◆ What if I only have private pay clients?
- ◆ I only have a few kiddos that are subsidy children, I don't want to label my kids.....
- ◆ Are there other options to the DSHS system?

What Is the Electronic Attendance New State Requirement?

The electronic attendance system was put into law under the Early Start Act of Washington in 2012, in response to the federal guidelines for accountability in funding. Many providers were not able to find records or would merely just write the State a check when audited. It was reported that more than 40% of providers either would not or could not respond when asked to submit attendance records of previous/present client. Thus, on the side of the State it appeared that many providers were intentionally/unintentionally committing fraud. Our States response to this fiscal accountability was to establish an electronic attendance system whereby, providers would have immediate access to this attendance accounting dilemma.

August 2016, the State of Washington launched a pilot attendance project, whereby providers and their parents across the state had the opportunity to explore 8 separate electronic attendance systems. This was followed up with a weekly survey completed by the provider and parents. At the end of the project each family received a thank you letter for participation and a monetary gift card. Providers and many parents had a follow up visit to Olympia, WA to test the system that the State chose as their electronic attendance system, Control Trek.

November 2017, SEIU 925 Family Child Care Collective Bargaining Unit, chimed in to ensure that our FCC providers would receive training and support to the sum of a 1 million contract to ensure that 5000.00 providers could receive a \$200.00 grant towards any upgrades to pre-existing or the assistance of a compatible tablet—not just for iPad units. In Addition, The Imagine Institute has contracted with the State to ensure that all SEIU/FCC providers are adequately trained and supported throughout this transition in English, Spanish and Somali.

December 2017-January 2018 a group of providers participated in an Early Adopter phase to give additional feedback and to assist with the State with working out the bugs for the new required system; with additional training and support of online and in person training session across the State.

March 2018, ALL providers have early access to the electronic system.

July 1, 2018, all providers that have subsidy clients will be required to participate in this FREE electronic attendance system.

I encourage all Family Child Care Homes, if you have one subsidy client to get the training and your program' portal set up BEFORE the mandatory deadline; to give yourself the time to understand the new State electronic attendance requirement.

What Do I Need to Do to Request for the \$200 grant?

After completing the electronic attendance training either online or in person, a FCC provider would need to go on their MER-IT professional record page and input your training completion date. DSHS will contact you via survey and at that time you can request for your grant. It will be paid to your through direct deposit generally within 30 days of completion.

Does My Program Have to Participate Even If I Only Have One Subsidy Student?

Yes. In compliance with the Early Start Act, all program that care for subsidy children are required to have an electronic attendance system.

I Don't Want My State Clients to Feel Discriminated? What Can I Do?

Private Pay Clients can be placed on the "Kindersign" State system at no additional cost. Or, you can purchase your own electronic attendance system that is compatible and meets the State attendance requirement. Some electronic attendance systems are free.

Go [HERE](#) to find the List of the State Approved On-Line Attendance System.

If you have further questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

Mary Curry, Public Policy Representative
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Serving all FCC Providers