



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** May 16, 2016

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**New Report Says State Is Underfunding Preschool Program;  
Washington Ranked Near Bottom in US When It Comes to  
Enrolling Four Year Olds**

Last week the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) released their 2015 overview of state funded preschool and found that our program called ECEAP (Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program) is at the very top when it comes to quality (9 out of 10 quality benchmarks), but at the very bottom when it comes to access. **Of the 50 states and the District of Columbia that were evaluated Washington State ranked #32 when it came to enrolling four year old children in our state funded preschool program. In 2015 only 8% of 4 year olds in the state are enrolled in ECEAP, and last biennium's increases brought us up to 9.3%.** The national average for state pre-k is 29% of children served. The good news is that we really are far ahead of Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, North and South Dakota, New Hampshire, Utah, and Indiana... because they actually have no state funded preschool program at all! You can read the [full report here](#).

**That's why in the next state legislative session our Association intends to seek 3400 new ECEAP slots so that we can make significant progress toward the state's goal to serve all eligible children by the 2020 statutory deadline.**

If you would like to speak with an ECEAP provider or a family currently being served by ECEAP please contact us and we will arrange an opportunity for you. Please contact Katy Warren at [Katy@wsaheadstarteceap.com](mailto:Katy@wsaheadstarteceap.com)

*\*Please note we are currently are out of stock on t-shirts with "WA is #32 When it Comes to Preschool" and the very popular headbands with the hashtag #AtLeastWeAreNot33. We do have a few mugs left with "Better Than Idaho" which we can personalize based on your state of choice (if your state either does not offer state funded preschool or actually serves fewer than 8% of preschool aged children).*