

EARLY LEARNING SYSTEM State Assets: oregonearlylearning.com

EARLY LARNING HUBS: Empowering Communities Around Outcomes for Children

Program/ Initiative	Summary
Health Care & Developmental Screening	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Early Learning Council (ELC) is working with the healthcare system to implement a process for a coordinated statewide screening system. The Early Learning Council and Oregon Health Policy Board are developing policies to ensure children receive services to improve kindergarten readiness.• The Early Learning Council adopted the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) as the statewide early learning system tool for general development screening.
Kindergarten Assessment <i>Taking a look back to look forward</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A statewide measurement of kindergarten readiness will launch at the end of August 2013.• School districts received \$1500 grants to help with assessment administration. District training sessions will continue across the state through August.
QRIS <i>Improving and ensuring quality care in Oregon.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A quality rating and improvement system (QRIS) is a systemic approach to assess, improve, and communicate the level of quality in early learning and development programs.• The Office of Child Care, Early Learning Division is currently implementing a large field test in four regions across Oregon to test the Quality Rating & Improvement System (QRIS): Crook/Deschutes/Jefferson Counties, Lane/Douglas Counties, Linn/Benton Counties and Multnomah County to reach 250 early learning and development programs participating QRIS programs by July 2014.• The QRIS will roll out statewide in January of 2014.
Home visiting system (home based services) <i>Strengthening the next generation.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oregon's home visiting system represents many home-based service programs across Oregon. The goal of the system is to strengthen both state and local home visiting capacity to effectively respond to the needs of pregnant women, children and families. The home visiting system will:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Develop shared outcomes in communities that align with statewide priorities for the early childhood system.○ Evaluate the impact of evidence-based models in various geographical settings (frontier, rural, and urban) to inform the state.○ Demonstrate success in the areas of improved maternal and newborn health, decreased child injuries, abuse and neglect; improved school readiness; improved identification of domestic violence in families; improved family economic self-sufficiency; and improved coordination of community referrals, resources, and supports.
Quality Early Learning Environments and Respite Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communities have a range of quality early learning and development programs ranging from Head Start/OPK, to Relief Nurseries, Family and Center based Child Care, and Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education.• The Governor increased funding for Head Start/OPK, Relief Nurseries, and Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE) in 2013.• Head Start/OPK provides preschool education, child health, nutrition and family support services to Oregon's lowest income and highest need preschool children throughout the state. The program provides children with the skills necessary to be successful in school, assist families in understanding the needs of their children and encourage families to be involved in their children's education.

- Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE) EI/ECSE is special education for young children birth to school age with disabilities and their families. The program seeks to provide these services in Quality Early Learning Environments including children's homes.
- Relief Nurseries provide temporary relief for families, including therapeutic early childhood classrooms and services, for primary care givers to reduce stress, support family stability and prevent abuse or neglect.

Full Day Kindergarten in 2015

- Starting in the 2015-16 school year all Oregon public elementary schools have the option of providing full-day Kindergarten and be reimbursed for full-day Average Daily Membership (ADM) amount in the State School Fund. Currently, schools are reimbursed only for half-day ADM even when full-day services are provided. Some schools charge parents tuition for the other half of the day if it is offered; however, charging parents tuition will no longer be allowed starting in 2015 school year.

Early literacy initiative.

The ELC and OEIB will strategically invest grant funds to improve kindergarten readiness and 3rd grade reading proficiency through programs that start early in children's lives and involve parents, child care providers and the community; and expand amount of time, adult support, materials, cultural relevance and sense of joy that literacy brings; and provides the instruction necessary for Oregon students to be reading by 3rd grade.

Kindergarten Innovation Fund

- The Kindergarten Innovation Fund awards grants to recipients modeling innovative strategies for connecting early learning and K-12, and getting children to Kindergarten ready to succeed.
- Criteria are being developed for competitive grants available January 2014.

System Supports

Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant: *A vehicle for our work.*

- Through the federal *Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant*, Oregon was awarded \$20M over four years to strengthen Oregon's early childhood system, including the Quality Rating & Improvement System development, early childhood workforce and professional development, developmental screening implementation, Early Learning Hub implementation, family and community engagement, data system enhancement, and Kindergarten Assessment enhancement.
- Oregon was approved for a supplemental RTT grant award of over \$10M in August 2013, continuing to represent and acknowledge the excellent early learning work happening in Oregon.

Child Care and Development Fund:

- Supports Employment Related Day Care for low income working parents seeking child care and early learning.
- Provides quality improvement for child care and early learning settings.

Child Care Resource and Referral Services:

- Provides referrals for parents seeking child care, professional development and training for the child care and early learning workforce.

Professional Development

- Provides access for early learning and development workforce to professional development through CCRR's, PSU Center for Career Development, community colleges and universities.

Head Start Collaboration Grant

- Supports early learning system integration for Oregon's early learning and development programs.