Oregon's QRIS:
Developed With Oregon In Mind

QRIS
Oregon's Quality Rating and Improvement System

Oregon's has a unique and rich early learning landscape. The development of Oregon's QRIS was guided by national standards and customized to recognize quality practices in Oregon's formalized early learning and development programs.

Evolved from prior efforts & initiatives in Oregon

EQUIP: Education & Quality Investment Partnership was a public and private initiative to improve the quality of child care programs, strengthen the childhood care and education workforce and prepare Oregon's youngest children for success in school.

☆ Supported several strategies to document and support individual care and education providers' professional development.

☆ Provided support and guidance for Oregon's Quality Indicator Program and Oregon Programs of Quality.

☆ Provided professional development supports through scholarships and education awards.

Oregon's Quality Indicator Program

Provided valuable data via measurements of research-based quality indicators that were used to predict the impact of QRIS standards and anticipate program ratings.

Oregon Programs of Quality (OPQ): Portfolio Model

OPQ was the stepping stone between basic licensure requirements and national accreditation. OPQ is the foundation for Oregon's QRIS portfolio and tiered rating system.

Grounded in national standards & research based practices

National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)

The standard for center based early childhood education programs.

National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC)

The only nationally recognized accreditation for family child care providers.

Head Start Performance Standards

Comprehensive standards that ensure quality in programs nationwide.

The **NAEYC**, **NAFCC** and **Head Start** performance standards were reviewed and incorporated with Oregon in mind, creating a tiered system of standards higher than licensing and leading to high levels of quality while remaining achievable and cost effective for programs.

Guided By Input From State Partners & Early Learning & Development Programs

Focus Groups were conducted in English, Spanish and Russian with over 250 early learning and development programs across Oregon.

Focus group were conducted with a variety of state partners including:

☆ Child Care Resource and Referral agencies

☆ Oregon's licensing specialists

☆ Health and Nutrition specialists

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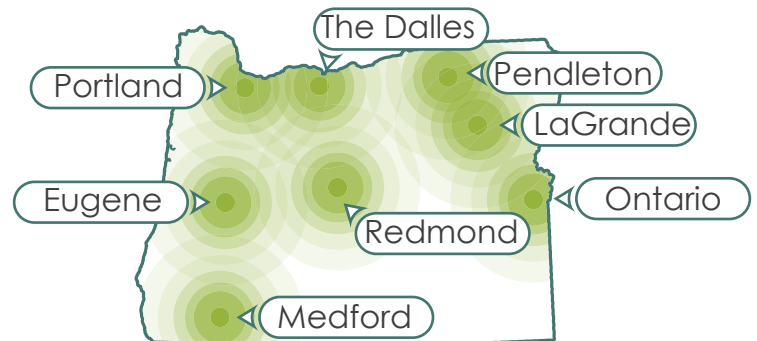
Refined with consultation & feedback from national experts

Oregon's QRIS has benefited from consolation from the BUILD Initiative and the QRIS National Learning Network. This work included:

Equity & Diversity · **Continuous Quality Improvement** · **Developing Standards** · **Monitoring**

Learning Tables

☆ Learning tables on equity and diversity, continuous quality improvement, developing standards, and monitoring.

☆ Review of standards by a national expert on cultural and linguistic competency.

☆ Cost Modeling of standards implementation.

Oregon's QRIS a comprehensive system

☆ Comprehensive system comprised of five components:

★ Standards ★ Supports ★ Incentives ★ Consumer Education ★ Rating/monitoring

☆ Able to meet programs where they are and recognizing quality across the diversity of Oregon's early learning and development programs. Oregon's QRIS connects all types of eligble programs with free tools, financial incentives and professional advice. Examples of programs that benefit are:
   ★ Family and center-based programs
   ★ Urban and rural programs
   ★ Programs serving culturally and lingusitcally diverse children

☆ Utilizes a cost effective portfolio system which is available in English, Spanish, and Russian

☆ Builds upon the strengths of Oregon's Professional Development System

Oregon's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) Revision

Oregon's Revised QRIS will:

- Ensure inclusion of diversity of cultures, communities of color, ethnicities, languages and abilities using the Oregon Equity Lens
- Be comprehensive but not cumbersome for providers
- Be sustainable and prioritize resources to increase access to quality care for children, families and communities furthest from opportunity
- Increase professionalism of the Early Learning field by encouraging continuous quality improvement across all levels of the system (system, workforce, program)
- Be efficient, effective and build upon existing systems
- Build upon the rich knowledge and expertise of Oregon's families and communities to support families as they choose child care
- Provide objective and understandable standards in accessible formats
- Be understood and valued by all stakeholders

Vision:
All of Oregon's children will have access to quality care and education that promotes each child's development, school readiness, and continued success in academics and life.

Mission:
Oregon's Quality Rating and Improvement System supports and incentivizes continuous quality improvements for care and education programs and their workforce. The QRIS partners with families and communities to highlight the importance of early learning experiences and to connect families and quality learning programs. Investments and resources are prioritized to increase access to quality care for children, families, and communities furthest from opportunity.

The revision process will:

Be transparent and inclusive
The inclusive process means that all perspectives will be sought after and included: parents, providers, and system partners, with intentional inclusion of individuals from diverse communities including communities of color, communities with high rates of poverty, individuals who speak diverse languages, rural communities, multiple cultural and ethnic backgrounds, persons with disabilities.

The revision process will ensure transparency by communicating time lines, points of input, decisions and implementations plan in a timely manner.

Partners will come to the table with the intention of creating a system that is best for everyone and be willing to work for true collaboration.

Recognize and value all stakeholders
The review process will keep children and families at the forefront of decisions. Providers, programs, the workforce, and partners will be valued stakeholders.

Be data driven and vision focused
The revision process will use multiple data sources including evaluation data, input from the early learning field, authentic community engagement, national TA and best practice to create a principle based, mission driven revised system. Decisions will be made to ensure child furthest from opportunity are priority for investments, resources, and access.

Explicitly focus on equity and reflecting diversity of cultures, communities of color, ethnicities, languages and abilities
The revision process will challenge institutionalized bias and ensure that the QRIS partners reflect and include children and families from diverse backgrounds. The revision process will also drive the professional development system to build out deeper supports for providers from diverse backgrounds, ensuring that training necessary for quality improvement and to advance levels on QRIS is available in English, Spanish, Russian, Vietnamese, Chinese, and other languages as resources allow.

The following tension points are acknowledged:

- Focus on early learning *and* inclusion of school age programs.
- Importance of high quality early childhood experiences *and* the subjective nature of "quality."
- Inclusion of all children *and* priority of children furthest from opportunity.
- Scope of involvement of licensed programs *and* increasing focus on full continuum of care.
- Goal of school readiness *and* importance of whole child.
- Desire to provide information to/educate families *and* partner with them as experts and decision makers.
- Higher rewards *and* higher stakes.
- Needs of rural communities *and* larger populations of children in the I-5 Corridor

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EARLY LEARNING DIVISION

QRIS Revision Timeline Summary

Purpose statement:

Capitalize on current Race To the Top Early Learning Challenge funding to revise the current QRIS to be a more effective, sustainable system with full implementation scheduled for Spring, 2017. This document was created to be a working draft of the timeline for revisions. As adjustments are made or dates become more specific, details will be added. Other early learning system changes are added in italics to give more context to the QRIS revisions.

Estimated timeline for revisions:

Fall 2015
- QRIS Revision timeline created
- *HB2015 Employment Related Day Care ERDC changes go into effect*
- *Head start expansion of Preschool Promise*

December 2015
- Themes for solution focused community engagement identified
- QRIS Revision timeline distributed

January 2016
- Dates for community engagement opportunities set; will use equity lens and guiding principles to ensure wide engagement
- Quality Advisory Board created
- Quality Improvement Specialist input survey distributed

February – May 2016
- Solution focused community engagement sessions across the state
- Initial validation study findings shared

April – June 2016
- Revision work groups meet to draft revisions to:

Process	Supports
Incentives	Rating and Monitoring
Consumer Education	Standards

- Branding work completed
- *Tiered reimbursement rollout*

June – September 2016
- Revisions are shared with the field for input

September – December 2016
- Final validation study findings shared
- Final revisions are created
- Implementation and transition plan created
- Early Learning Information System (ELIS) goes live
- *Preschool Promise rolls out in community placements*
- *Monitoring of licensed exempt programs begins*

January – June 2017
- Implementation phase in begins
- Ongoing feedback loops implemented

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National Landscape of Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (QRIS):

The QRIS began as a way for states to create a framework for creating and identifying a supply of high quality child care. Prior to the QRIS, most states had several initiatives to support quality improvement efforts but they were often disjointed and not clearly connected. The QRIS provided a way for states to connect their various initiatives around quality improvement within and bring together the various early learning programs under one common quality framework.

Oregon's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) evolution:

The evolution of QRIS in Oregon followed this same national trend in taking the initiatives of Quality Indicators and Oregon Programs of Quality designed to support facility quality improvement and incorporating the professional development systems of support of Education Awards and professional development scholarships within the frame of the QRIS. The beginnings of this connection began with the EQUIP Intiative that started as a public-private partnership to support quality child care.

Development of Oregon's QRIS standards began with the development of Oregon's Programs of Quality, which looked at national standards including National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) standards and Head Start Performance Standards. The goal of Oregon's Program of Quality was to create a stepping stone between licensing standards and national accreditation. The system developed and the opportunity to create a QRIS system in Oregon emerged in which Oregon approached building upon the work of Oregon Program of Quality and the Quality Indicator's Project to create a set of tiered standards.

The process of developing the QRIS standards brought together Head Start, NAEYC and NAFCC to identify and tier the standards for Oregon. The goal was to create a set of standards to serve as way for early learning programs to incrementally achieve higher levels of quality and create alignment across the early learning system. The development process used multiple tools to identify which standards to include in the QRIS leaning on workforce data within the field and the goals as defined in the Head Start Performance standards as well as standards that connected to state priorities such as developmental screening. Additionally, these standards where taken out into the field to help further develop the QRIS standards in both center-based and home-based programs across several languages. Oregon's QRIS has continued to make small refinements to improve and clarify the standards to support early learning programs to achieve these standards.

Current Standards Revision Process:

Oregon's QRIS has been collecting data through research evaluations, provider surveys, and focus groups to help improve the system since the beginning of the QRIS pilot. The QRIS is currently launching into a revision process taking into account all that has been learned over the last several years. The Early Learning Division has launched a broad based community engagement effort to inform the QRIS revision process to improve the standards to better meet the needs of early learning programs.