

Child Care and Education Committee

ELC Charge to Child Care and Education Committee:

The Child Care and Education Committee (CCEC) is chartered to advise the Early Learning Council (ELC) on the issues, challenges, successes and priorities related to affordable, quality child care and early education programs in Oregon, to provide outreach and act as a liaison between citizens and the ELC through community forums and surveys to engage parents, early care and education providers and union representatives and to prioritize outcome based policies for child care and early education issues related to quality, affordability and system coordination.

Core areas of responsibility include:

Early Learning Council Strategic Plan Priorities

Advise the ELC on the following policy areas, in accordance with the strategies and tactics adopted in the 2015-2020 strategic plan:

1.1 Advise ELC on developing a supply of high quality, community based early learning programs that support the diversity of family values and experiences in our state, across a variety of settings:

- Implement a Quality Rating Improvement System for licensed/regulated early learning and development programs in Oregon.
- Develop policy related to the implementation of a mixed delivery pre-school system for the state of Oregon.
- Develop quality community-based early learning development programs using support systems recognized by focus communities.
- Strengthen and support “family friends and neighbor” providers through enhanced training and professional development.
- Develop and implement one unified set of Early Learning Standards for all early learning and development programs.

1.2 Advise ELC on ensuring equitable access for child and families to quality early learning and development programs, overcoming traditional barriers of race, culture, income and geography:

- Offer expertise regarding affordability, quality and accessibility for child care – all types of child care such as licensed family, center, school-age, friend, family, and neighbor care.
- Develop an increased supply of high quality ELDPs in areas of the state that are currently “child care and pre-school deserts” and/or where educational outcomes at kindergarten entry and third grade reading are lagging for our focus population.
- Connect Oregon’s “Employment Related Day Care” child care subsidy program to quality early learning and develop a tiered reimbursement approach to ERDC and expand access to children/families.
- Increase providers willing to accept subsidy by implementing a contracted slots program.

1.3 Advise ELC on providing parents with the information and support they need to meet the developmental and educational needs of their child and the child care needs of their families:

- Develop a statewide early learning services referral system to ensure that families can connect with the services they need where they need them.

1.4 Advise ELC on developing robust educational and certification pathways for early learning providers:

- Create and sustain “portable” “stackable” and transferable degrees/pathways to degrees for early learning programs at community colleges and 4-year colleges/universities, accessible regardless of geography.

- Ensure pathways are accessible, affordable and supportive of non-traditional students through strategies such as coaching, mentoring, etc.
- Establish a statewide apprenticeship program for early childhood professionals, early childhood teachers and program or center directors.

Rule Advisory Committee

Pursuant to Oregon Revised Statutes 2013, Chapter 326, the Early Learning Council is charged with oversight for the early learning system and “in accordance with applicable provisions of ORS chapter 183 the council may adopt rules necessary for the administration of the laws that the council is charged with administering.”

Pursuant to Oregon Revised Statutes 183.333 (1) “it is the policy of the state that whenever possible the public be involved in the development of public policy by agencies and in the drafting of rules. The Legislative Assembly encourages agencies to seek public input to the maximum extent possible before giving notice of intent to adopt a rule. The agency may appoint an advisory committee that will represent the interests of persons likely to be affected by the rule, or use any other means of obtaining public views that will assist the agency in drafting the rule.” Further, this ORS states that “if an agency appoints an advisory committee for consideration of a rule, the agency shall seek the committee’s recommendation on whether the rule will have a fiscal impact, what the extent of that impact will be and whether the rule will have a significant adverse impact on small businesses.”

The Early Learning Council has designated the Child Care and Education Committee as its rule advisory committee for all rules related to early learning and development programs in Oregon under its authority.

These programs and sets of rules fall into three categories: rules that govern child care settings, rules that govern programs funded by the state’s Early Learning Division to serve children, and rules that govern the early learning system.

In its role as the rule advisory the CCEC will perform the following functions:

- Develop an overarching policy framework with goals and principles to guide rule promulgation that is aligned with the Early Learning Council outcomes.
- Using the policy framework developed, provide recommendations for rules that govern the work of the Early Learning Council and Early Learning Division.
- Inform the process for engagement of stakeholders impacted by the rules for meaningful input.
- Provide recommendations to the Early Learning Council for rule promulgation.

The Rule Advisory Process and Roles

Roles:

Role of the Early Learning Council: The role of the ELC is to vote on and formally promulgate rules recommended for adoption by the CCEC.

Role of the CCEC: The role of the CCEC is to recommend changes to rules/recommend rules for

new programs taking into consideration the overarching policy goals of the ELC and the rule making policy vision, goals and principles developed by the CCEC.

Role of Early Learning Division staff: The role of ELD staff is to provide requested input and information to the CCEC as it fulfills its duties, to do the technical drafting and review of rules in line with the CCEC's policy recommendations and to solicit public input on proposed rules, in line with direction on/input into the stakeholder engagement plan from the CCEC. Once rules are adopted by the Council, ELD staff follow the necessary administrative steps to ensure filing and implementation of new rules.

Rule making process and timelines:

Creation of policy framework and guiding principles:

Timeframe: Created for the first time in 2015, refreshed and updated at the start of each new biennium.

- CCEC develops a policy framework for rule making with guiding principles and an overarching policy framework for all rules and each rule cluster.
- CCEC Chair takes framework to the ELC for approval and adoption.

For existing rules – Initiation of a rule revision:

- ELD staff notify CCEC of rules that are out of date (have not been revised within the past 5 years) and need to be revised.
- CCEC analyzes rule through the policy framework and rule principles and notes where it recommends changes. (During this fact finding stage, ELD staff also supply the CCEC with information and input regarding changes staff would like to see made to rules.)
- Following analysis/fact finding stage, CCEC makes formal recommendations for rule changes along with recommendations for community engagement and stakeholder input.
- ELD staff draft rule revision per CCEC recommendations and guidance.
- ELD staff prepare fiscal impact statement.
- ELD staff bring draft rule revision and fiscal impact statement to CCEC for review to ensure it aligns with policy intent.
- ELD staff conduct stakeholder input and review process identified by CCEC.
- ELD staff analyze feedback received during stakeholder input sessions and bring back to CCEC for consideration.
- CCEC determines whether or not to make changes to proposed rule based on stakeholder feedback.
 - If no changes are needed, move to the next step.
 - If changes are needed, ELD staff draft changes for consideration, discussion and approval by CCEC.
- CCEC recommends rules move forward to the full ELC for discussion.
- CCEC chair presents rules to ELC for discussion.
 - If the ELC requests additional information or requests changes, ELD staff work to provide information and draft changes prior to submitting for filing.
 - If no requested changes from ELC move to the next step.
- Staff provides a proposed final version to the agency Rules Coordinator for filing with Secretary of State.
- Formal public hearings are held. Comments are also taken via email.
- Following the public hearings, the CCEC chair brings final rule to ELC.

- Final rules are voted on and adopted by the ELC. Adopted rules filed with Secretary of State.

For new rules:

- ELD staff notify CCEC that a new statute has passed that requires rules to be adopted for implementation.
- CCEC invites stakeholders and advocates who worked on the legislation creating the new program for a discussion on intent of the policy and to discover what matters most to the people who have worked on the policy to date. At the discretion of the CCEC Chair and the Early Learning System Director, citizens who were instrumental in the passage of a new policy/creation of a new program may be invited to serve temporarily as part of the rule advisory.
- CCEC analyzes rule through the policy framework and rule principles.
- Following analysis/fact finding stage, CCEC makes formal recommendations for rule changes along with recommendations for community engagement and stakeholder input.
- ELD staff draft rule revision per CCEC recommendations and guidance.
- ELD staff complete fiscal impact statement.
- ELD staff bring draft rule revision and fiscal impact statement to CCEC for review to ensure it aligns with policy intent.
- ELD staff conduct stakeholder input and review process.
- ELD staff analyze feedback received during stakeholder input sessions and bring back to CCEC for consideration.
- CCEC determines whether or not to make changes to proposed rule based on stakeholder feedback.
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