



## Early Learning Council Guiding Principles

The Early Learning Council has established six guiding principles and operational questions that are designed to help ensure that the Early Learning Council's core values, principles and goals are infused through the work that it conducts and guides. These guiding principles and questions that should be considered and asked before making any decision.

1. The Early Learning Council operates with cultural responsiveness in the best interest of children and their families and recognizes family as a child's first teacher.
  - a. Have you considered the family norms and values?
  - b. Have you considered non-dominant cultures?
  - c. Have you applied the Equity Lens?
2. The Early Learning Council promotes equity in access and allocation of resources to and cultural responsiveness for populations furthest from opportunity.
  - a. How are resources allocated to produce the most equitable outcomes for children and families furthest from opportunity?
  - b. Have you considered families and children from the following communities?
    - i. African American
    - ii. Latino
    - iii. Asian and Pacific Islander
    - iv. Tribal Communities
    - v. Children in the foster care system
    - vi. Children with disabilities
    - vii. English language learners
    - viii. Economic disparities
    - ix. Immigrants and refugees
    - x. Geographic isolation
3. The Early Learning Council is committed to moving beyond a culture of compliance to one of continuous improvement.
  - a. Is continuous improvement supported throughout systems and services?
  - b. Do providers/caregivers/educators have competencies, supports and financial resources for best outcomes for children & families?
4. The Early Learning Council supports practice-based evidence and data-driven decision-making and accountability for realistic, measurable outcomes for children and families whenever possible.
  - a. Are these measures realistic?
  - b. How long will it take for these outcomes to be measurable?
  - c. Is there data or research available to support these outcomes or measures?
  - d. Do these outcomes further the commitment to support the whole child?



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5. The Early Learning Council ensures that family-parent voice and roles are respected, enlisted, included and valued.
  - a. Are you meeting people where they are?
  - b. Are parents and families empowered as decision-makers?
  
6. The Early Learning Council promotes collaboration, alignment and coordination within communities and across sectors.
  - a. Are you engaging across agencies and partners to work toward success for children and families?
  - b. Are you working together to benefit children and families?
  - c. Is there transparency in community public engagement?
  - d. Are you consulting with communities?