

Ad Hoc Spark/QRIS Revision Advisory Committee Charter

ELC Charge to the Ad Hoc Spark/QRIS Revision Advisory Committee - Advise the Early Learning Council on the issues, challenges, successes and priorities related to revising the Spark/QRIS standards, processes and supports.

ELC Strategy 1.1: Develop a supply of high quality, community based early learning programs focused on the ELC's priority population of low income children and children of color.

ELC Tactic 1A: Implement a Quality Rating and Improvement System for licensed/regulated early learning and development programs in Oregon; continually evaluate implementation impact and adjust to overcome challenges/barriers based on learnings.

Background for the Ad Hoc Spark/QRIS Revision Advisory Committee

Oregon launched Spark – its Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) for early care and education programs – as part of its federal Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant, and is now among the fifty states that have similar initiatives. Spark was developed with multiple goals in mind:

1. Promote practices that promote positive, culturally responsive child development, kindergarten readiness, professional development and strong family engagement
2. Provide guidance, supports and resources to early learning programs to promote positive child development and strong family engagement
3. Provide an opportunity for early learning programs to shine and demonstrate their strengths
4. Provide information to parents about early learning programs
5. Create a common framework for early learning programs that supports public investments in diverse settings and programs

After completing extensive community engagement on the QRIS over the last two years, an ongoing process evaluation and a validation study of the QRIS standards, the Early Learning Division, under the guidance of the Early Learning Council, is ready to revise the QRIS standards and processes in order to better achieve the five goals listed above.

The Early Learning Council will develop principles for quality to guide work across the early learning system, including the Spark/QRIS revisions. The Council, working with the Equity Implementation and Child Care and Education Committees may also adopt specific principles to guide the Spark/QRIS revision process.

Role of the Ad Hoc Spark/QRIS Revision Advisory Committee

Early Learning Division staff, working with Western Oregon University, will be responsible for revising the Spark/QRIS standards in accordance with those principles. The Ad Hoc Committee will be responsible for providing oversight and feedback to staff during the revision process to assure that the revisions achieve their goals and meet the principles adopted by the Early Learning Council. The current schedule has the revised standards brought to the ELC in June 2017 for adoption. This calendar can be adjusted if more time is needed to ensure the success of the revision.

After the revised Spark/QRIS Standards are adopted, the Ad Hoc Committee will provide oversight and guidance on the implementation of the standards, Spark processes and supports.

Committee Composition (12-15):

- Early Learning Council members (2)
- Child Care providers from diverse setting who have participated in Spark/QRIS (3)
- Head Start providers (2)
- Culturally specific community-based organization serving focus populations (3)
- Quality Improvement Specialists (2)
- Early Childhood Researcher (1-2)

Frequency and duration of meetings: every month for two hours over the next 12-16 months. (May be able to meet every other month after standards revisions have been completed)

ELD Staff support: Dawn Wood (Child Care Director), Meredith Russell (Program Development Lead)