

Process for Getting to a Strategic Plan
Seeking input from Early Learning Council
May 30, 2018

Start with the vision for Oregon's Early Learning System and organize themes by these 3 goals:

1. Children arrive ready for kindergarten
2. Children are raised in healthy, stable & attached families
3. Aligned, coordinated and family-centered systems

Strategic Plan to be Meaningful

1. Making a difference for children and families
2. Strengthen the Early Learning System
3. Connect the shared interests and efforts of each sector

Establish criteria for narrowing down within and across themes, for example:

- Advances positive developmental and well-being outcomes for children prenatal to five and their families
- Promotes equity and addresses racial, geographic and economic disparities
- Seizes opportunities to make progress toward building an early learning system
- Prioritizes those strategies that will have the greatest impact or significant outcomes for the effort
- Fosters areas of shared interests and work across 2 or more sectors, e.g. health, early learning, human services, etc.
- Supports all sectors' efforts to focus and invest in upstream strategies
- Builds on Oregon's early learning system strengths
- Tackles barriers to improving outcomes for young children and their families
- Seeks ambitious, yet achievable outcomes in five-years
- Supports Council strategic priorities, e.g. Baby Promise, preschool, prenatal to grade 3 transitions, Early Childhood Equity Fund, professional learning pathways, and early learning capacity

Use ELC Guiding Principles to review and ensure content of the Strategic Plan

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
2. The Early Learning Council promotes equity in access and allocation of resources to and cultural responsiveness for populations furthest from opportunity
3. The Early Learning Council is committed to moving beyond a culture of compliance to one of continuous improvement
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
5. The Early Learning Council ensures that family-parent voice and roles are respected, enlisted, included and valued
6. The Early Learning Council promotes collaboration, alignment and coordination within communities and across sectors

Structure

Brainstorming different ways to structure the strategic plan because considering how best to:

- Organize by goals and strategies
- See the contribution of each sector
- Demonstrate timing – some strategies will come before others, how some strategies will be advanced, but not necessarily completed in 5 years
- Integrate measuring success efforts – want to be able to show how will we know progress is being made

Example

Example of how we could turn a theme into goals, strategies and activities, though this example does not currently meet all of our structure requirements.

I. Children are raised in healthy, stable & attached families.

- A.** Goal statement around family-centered systems alignment – building a system that works for families

Strategy 1: Strategy statement around cross-sector family support services that are coordinated and aligned

Activity 1: Identify the continuum and range of purposes and eligibility criteria of family support services that exist across the sectors of Human Services, Early Care and Education, K-12, and Health

Activity 2: Determine how best to connect families to family support services

Strategy 2: Strategy statement around creating a systemic approach to building communication with families

Activity 1: Build a state-community referral processes so there is “no wrong door” for families and they can connect with appropriate and needed services

Activity 2: Improve bi-directional communication with families to foster engagement in services and have their voice in the design and delivery of services

Activity 3: Change communication with families that have changes in eligibility of services to ensure understanding, next steps and other supports, and address long call wait times that go beyond parents break schedules at work

Activity 4: Develop professional development across sectors on shared competencies and skills re: how to effectively engage families in services and promote their voice in the design and delivery of services