

Together, we are building an early learning system ready to grow, develop, and thrive - just like Oregon's children.

What are we doing?

- We are transforming how we approach early learning and child care by building a new, unified agency – the **Department of Early Learning and Care**.
- DELC will consolidate child care functions currently housed in the Early Learning Division of the Oregon Department of Education and the Oregon Department of Human Services under one state agency beginning on July 1, 2023.
- This new agency will centralize key functions and transform back-office services, positioning DELC to scale programs, increase access to child care, and more effectively support providers in delivering culturally responsive early learning services.

Why are we changing now?

- Oregon's early learning system is currently fragmented and siloed between departments and across agencies.
- A single agency that reports directly to the Governor positions Oregon to best support early learning funding and expansion opportunities, grow the supply of child care, and enable equitable access for children and families.
- Research indicates that enrollment in high quality early learning programs predicts academic achievement and other life outcomes, so ensuring every child in Oregon has access to culturally responsive early learning experiences can prevent achievement gaps and increase student success.
- DELC is evolving for the future, and these changes will open the door to new opportunities for employees.

How will DELC be different?

- DELC will create a child care and early learning system that is more responsive to the needs of children, families, and providers.
- The processes, procedures, and internal operations of DELC will be rooted in equity to ensure communities have access to the services and supports they need to help their children and families thrive.
- Centralization of functions, data-driven decision making, and adoption of common processes and systems will drive efficiency and improve scalability.

DELC AGENCY IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT