



TRANSITION PROCESS FOR THE EARLY LEARNING DIVISION WITHIN THE OREGON DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

- HB 3234 consolidates early learning within state government, creating the Early Learning Division within the Dept. of Education.
- At the direction of the Governor's Office, with DAS leadership and in partnership with the Dept. of Education, we created a cross-agency project leadership team to make this happen efficiently to be ready July 1 pending legislative direction.
- The cross-agency team, working to install a \$326.2M budget, brought together data systems across agencies; took care of contracts with all the different providers across the state, including contracts with 36 counties; transitioned business systems including accounting, payroll, and HR; moved and transitioned budgets; and ensured a seamless transition.
- This brings together a new defined Early Learning Division that includes ELC staff, Relief Nurseries, Healthy-Start, Head Start/OPK programs, licensing, Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS), and subsidies.
- It will bring the Child Care Division and all included programs from Employment - including administration of 2,665 registered family home providers, and 1711 certified family homes and centers - where it is a better fit in terms of policy and coordination within the Oregon Dept. of Education. For early learning, child care is where children actually are, and improving access to child care and quality is a key function of the Early Learning Council.
- **Following legislative direction, ELC stands ready to transition to the Oregon Dept. of Education.**

ANTICIPATED TIMELINE AND PROCESS FOR THE HUB RFA (PENDING LEGISLATIVE DIRECTION THROUGH HB 2013)

JUNE 2013

Determine/finalize application content and criteria (Early Learning Council and staff) and technical assistance plan.

JULY/AUGUST 2013

ELC promulgate emergency rules per HB 13 (July 18), and technical assistance on the application and general education on what Hubs are to communities via webinar series.

AUGUST 2013

ELC releases draft RFA for public comment. ELC and staff provide technical assistance via statewide conference to community teams. ELC releases RFA to communities, open for 45-60 day window.

SEPTEMBER 2013

Communities work on Early Learning Hub applications.

OCTOBER

Hub applications due. ELC reviews applications and approves.

HUB IMPLEMENTATION

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2013

Convene certified Hub governing bodies for a transition workshop to kick off their work. State and certified Hubs work together on crafting a full year-1 transformation plan to support Hubs to deliver on the commitments made in their RFA. Communities lead on plan creation – state provides support, capacity, and technical assistance.

JANUARY 2014

Final transformation plans completed and ready for action at each Hub. Ongoing support and regular monthly check-ins between Hubs and state support team. Leaders of certified Hubs participate in Legislative Report.



OTHER EARLY LEARNING COUNCIL UPDATES:

OREGON KINDERGARTEN ASSESSMENT

TAKING A LOOK BACK TO LOOK FORWARD

The Kindergarten Assessment will launch statewide end of August 2013. ODE has posted the draft of the 2013-14 Accommodations Manual which outlines accommodations available for all students during each of Oregon's statewide assessments, including the Kindergarten Assessment. ELL Spanish-speaking students taking the Kindergarten Assessment will receive an early Spanish literacy assessment in addition to the early English literacy assessment. ODE provided the first round of Kindergarten Assessment Train-the-Trainer sessions in May 2013 in districts across the state, where district staff asked in-depth questions and offered feedback. The trainings will continue through August 2013.

Currently, the Oregon Dept. of Education and Early Learning Council are in the process of joining an eight state consortium, led by North Carolina, called the *Kindergarten Partnership*. The Kindergarten Partnership collaboratively extends Kindergarten Assessment work through 3rd grade, focusing on reading and other skills. One key focus includes aligning with Common Core standards in schools across the country. The consortium will collaborate on developing assessments that provide a more complete picture of the whole child to guide teaching and learning to 3rd grade and beyond.

EARLY LEARNING KINDERGARTEN READINESS PARTNERSHIP & INNOVATION FUND

The Early Learning Kindergarten Readiness Partnership & Innovation Fund, administered by the Early Learning Council pending legislative direction, awards grants to recipients modeling innovative strategies for connecting early learning and K-12 and getting children to Kindergarten ready to succeed.

EARLY LITERACY & OREGON EDUCATION INVESTMENT BOARD (OEIB) PARTNERSHIP

The Early Learning Council and the Oregon Education Investment Board will strategically invest \$1.6M in grant funds to improve kindergarten readiness and 3rd grade reading proficiency through programs that start early in children's lives and involve parents, child care providers, and the community; expand the amount of time, adult support, materials, cultural relevance, and sense of joy that literacy brings; and provides the instruction necessary for Oregon students to be reading by 3rd grade.

RACE TO THE TOP EARLY LEARNING CHALLENGE GRANT UPDATE A VEHICLE TO ACCOMPLISH OUR WORK

Recall that Oregon was awarded the *Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant* last December. While we did not receive the full amount of the award then, Oregon has proven through current work that a supplemental award should be revisited and is eligible for a *Race to the Top* supplemental grant award. Oregon may request up to \$10,254,451, which was calculated to provide the remainder of the full amount requested in Oregon's prior application.

The Oregon team will submit to receive the supplemental award under guidance from the Early Learning Council.