

MEMORANDUM

Date: January 24, 2023

To: Lisa Gezelter, Analyst, Legislative Policy Office

CC: Alyssa Chaterjee, Director, Early Learning Division/Department of Early Learning and Care
David Mandell, Chief of Policy and Research, Early Learning Division/Department of Early Learning and Care

From: Christopher Brown, Government Affairs Manager, Early Learning Division/Department of Early Learning and Care

Subject: Questions from the House Education Committee

Early Learning Division:

-How are you distributing your funding? Is it per student? Or?

For the direct service programs to children (Preschool Promise (PSP), Baby Promise (BP), and Oregon Prenatal to Kindergarten (OPK), the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) has a funding formula that sets cost per child as the basis of funding.

For other programs that provide support to the early care and education system, such as Early Learning Hubs and Child Care Resource and Referrals, the funding formula is based on the populations served including the number of children and number of child care providers in the community.

-Do you have the numbers of the kids that are on a waitlist for child care by age? Your slide imply you are listing the amount of kids ELIGIBLE- this does not mean they are needing it or wanting it. Do you have data for what the actual NEED is?

Most child care in Oregon is provided by private small business. Because DELIC's primary relationship with these programs is as a licensing agency, we don't collect waitlist information from these programs. [Analysis](#) from Oregon State University's Oregon Child Care Research Partnership show that Oregon is significantly below the national standard for adequate child care, with every county in Oregon a child care desert for infant and toddler care. This research is consistent with what we have been continually hearing from parents and community partners, particularly the struggle to find infant and toddler care.

For Oregon's publicly funded early learning programs, the eligible population largely considers income and DELIC would consider 70%-80% of take up to be full take up rate, in alignment with national practices. This is due to the fact that every eligible family does not want or need care.

-What is the accountability system of the facility receiving funds from you to report on their daily attendance, care, and curriculum (if applicable)? Are you setting a curriculum standard for the Pre-K programs? Where are those listed?

PSP and OPK programs report on a monthly basis the program average daily attendance, not by individual children. The goal is to be higher than 85%. OPK programs also monitor average daily attendance according to [Head Start Standards](#) and work with families to improve attendance if needed.

All licensed child care programs are required to keep daily attendance logs to comply with health and safety requirements.

DELIC monitors attendance to promote a high rate of attendance in preschool as a kindergarten readiness outcome. High attendance in K-12 is a key indicator of school success and habits for attendance start early. Preschool providers work with families, in a strength based approach, to remove barriers to attending. If a child has chronic absenteeism, a provider can transition the child out of program and enroll a child with a greater need for services.

Both PSP and OPK grantees must select a curriculum that aligns with the [Early Learning and Kindergarten Guidelines](#) or the [Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework](#). Curricula must be developmentally appropriate research-based early childhood curricula that responsive to the linguistic and cultural characteristics of children and families served. Some examples include Creative Curriculum, High Scope, Habit of the Mind, Montessori, and Tools of the Mind.

-How are you measuring your success? Accountability?

One of the primary goals of standing up DELIC as a standalone agency is to strengthen data collection, data driven decision-making and accountability across the early learning system. As part of this work, DELIC has been building new Quality Assurance and Data Analytics teams that will be responsible for collecting accurate and timely data in a consistent fashion. Through our federal Preschool Development Grant, we have been able to work with Deloitte to conduct a complete scan of available early childhood data, gaps in that data and opportunity to build a stronger system of data collection and data governance.