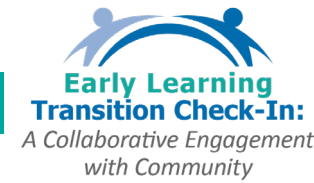


Priorities for the Fall 2023 Pilot



The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) and Oregon Early Learning Division (ELD) are working with communities across the state to redesign the Oregon Kindergarten Assessment (OKA). In fall 2022, Oregon Kitchen Table (OKT) hosted community conversations with families and providers who participated in “Family Interviews,” a pilot approach to support students’ transitions into kindergarten.

Visit oregonskitchentable.org/results/early-learning-transition-check-ins to download OKT’s executive summary and full report.

The report was shared with the project’s advisory panel to review and provide feedback. The table below provides a summary of OKT’s recommendations and of the advisory panel’s suggestions. Based on this information, ODE and ELD will focus on the following priorities in the fall 2023 pilot:

- Ensure timely communication with educators and families.
- Put questions regarding pre-kindergarten care, programs, and services into context.
- Provide opportunities for follow-up with families.

These priorities were selected based on how important action steps are to the success of the pilot.

Family Interviews: Advisory Panel Suggestions

OKT Recommendations	Project Goal	Potential Action Steps
<p>*Ensure timely communication with educators and families.</p>	<p>Improve information sharing for families and educators.</p> <hr/> <p>Be clear about the goals and purpose of the interview.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide timely, clear, simple, and culturally responsive messaging. • Make sure educators and early learning partners have the necessary information to communicate with school staff and families in early spring. • Share the purpose of the Family Interview, questions, and how data will be collected and used. Provide specific examples of how data will be used. • Use a variety of communication tools (in-person, video, phone, etc.) to increase awareness. <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a clear and culturally responsive orientation of purpose, process, and goals of the interview. • Create visual and audio materials (e.g., mock interview) in various languages for use in training and orientation to increase accessibility. • Inform early learning and care providers about the process for their awareness and to support families with transition. • Inform families that participation in the pilot is optional.

OKT Recommendations	Project Goal	Potential Action Steps
<p>*Put questions regarding pre-kindergarten care, programs, and services into context.</p>	<p>Change descriptions and interview language to increase family and caregiver understanding and improve experiences.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the purpose of each question to families and educators. • Replace “programs” with “experiences” in one of the questions so it reads, “What experiences programs and/or services did your child receive or participate in to help them learn and grow? Some examples of experiences your child may have participated in are...” Include examples of specific programs and services in question.
<p>*Provide opportunities for follow-up with families.</p>	<p>Ensure data gathered is used as intended, and shared in a helpful and timely way.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent misuse of data collected in the Family Interviews. • Share data and findings with families and educators. • Be transparent with families, educators, and the general public. Share how data will inform funding and programing decisions. • Encourage schools to connect with families after the interviews. Suggest ongoing and meaningful engagement activities to build a sense of belonging and community.
<p>Strengthen culturally specific outreach to families.</p>	<p>ODE and ELD to improve outreach and communication with families.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create print and digital materials for families (videos, signs, posters, etc.). • Organize community outreach efforts to connect families with trusted community partners to help increase awareness.
<p>Strengthen community connections through community conversations.</p>	<p>Encourage conversations and relationship building between educators and families to continue after the interview. Make sure these efforts are family- and district-driven.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with regional partners to support and inform family engagement efforts. • Provide additional, flexible funds for educators to support family engagement after the interview. • Build in time for relationship building within school schedules.

For more information on the Early Learning Transition Check-In: A Collaborative Engagement with Community, visit oregonearlylearning.com/PreKCheckin.

If you have any questions, please email PreKCheckin@ode.oregon.gov.

