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NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING
INCLUDING STATEMENT OF NEED & FISCAL IMPACT

CHAPTER 414
DEPARTMENT OF EARLY LEARNING AND CARE

FILED

03/06/2025 10:29 AM
ARCHIVES DIVISION
SECRETARY OF STATE

FILING CAPTION: Amends Early Learning Hub Rules and Repeals Early Learning Kindergarten Readiness Program Rules

LAST DAY AND TIME TO OFFER COMMENT TO AGENCY: 05/30/2025 5:00 PM

The Agency requests public comment on whether other options should be considered for achieving the rule's substantive goals while reducing negative economic impact of the rule on business.

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Filed By:
Crys O'Grady
Rules Coordinator

HEARING(S)

Auxiliary aids for persons with disabilities are available upon advance request. Notify the contact listed above.

DATE: 05/12/2025

TIME: 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

OFFICER: Carey McCann

REMOTE HEARING DETAILS

MEETING URL: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

PHONE NUMBER: 1-669-254-5252

CONFERENCE ID: 1613645261

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. A request for an interpreter for the hearing impaired or for other accommodations for persons with disabilities should be made at least 48 hours before the meeting to Carey McCann by email at Ccarey.mccann@delc.oregon.gov.

NEED FOR THE RULE(S)

The Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) is proposing rule amendments to the Early Learning Hub ruleset. Early Learning Hubs: Early Learning Hubs play a critical role in connecting and coordinating those services on a regional level. Hubs center the voices of families from communities who face historical and current inequities due to factors such as race, income, zip code, or language. With local leaders and communities, Hubs help build a shared vision and support strategic planning by evaluating regional successes, barriers, and opportunities. The Early Learning Hub rules have not been revised since their launch in 2014. These rule changes will occur in two phases.

The proposed rule changes and proposed new rules are listed below:

414-900-0005: Purpose and Scope

The rule clarifies the Department of Early Learning and Care's (DELIC) authority in administering the Early Learning Hub system under ORS 417.827. It establishes a framework for collaboration across sectors to implement Raise Up Oregon

and Hub agreement goals and ensure equitable, family-centered early childhood services. The scope includes governance, operational, and fiscal roles of Hubs and their relationship with backbone agencies.

414-900-0010: Definitions

Key definitions have been updated and expanded to include terms like "Autonomous Authority," "Backbone Entity," and "Priority Populations." The definition of "At Risk" now explicitly includes systemic and individual racism or discrimination as factors affecting child well-being. The rule also defines the Governance Council's independent decision-making authority over funding and strategic direction.

414-900-0015: Early Learning Hub Functions

Previously, this rule established Hubs as regional conveners to align early childhood services. The revision formalizes the requirement for Hubs to coordinate across six core service sectors, conduct regional assessments, and publicly report governance and budget decisions. Strengthens the role of the Governance Council in investment decision-making and emphasizes equity-driven service delivery to close opportunity gaps.

414-900-0510: Administration of Early Learning Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation Program

Clarifies that KPI funding must enhance early learning and K-12 alignment, support family engagement, and improve school readiness for priority populations. Reinforces financial accountability by mandating that KPI funds be tracked separately and used solely for designated program purposes.

The new proposed rules are listed below:

Proposed Rule 414-900-0011: Early Learning Hub Director Role

States that the Hub Director leads regional system coordination and ensures alignment with Raise Up Oregon. While employed by the backbone entity for administrative purposes, the Director must independently oversee Hub fiscal transparency, community partnerships, and strategic initiatives. Expands responsibilities to include continuous monitoring of Hub effectiveness and equity in service delivery while addressing the needs of the region's priority populations.

Proposed Rule 414-900-0030: Administration

Specifies that the Department administers all grant agreements, ensuring compliance with program guidelines and fiscal oversight. Reinforces the Governance Council's exclusive authority over Hub investments and outlines enforcement measures for noncompliance, including corrective actions or funding reductions. Hubs may use additional funding sources, but Department funds must be allocated in alignment with regional priorities.

Proposed Rule 414-900-0100: Backbone Entity Structure

Defines backbone entities as administrative and fiscal support providers while clarifying their role in funding decisions. Establishes requirements for financial transparency, auditing compliance, and fiscal independence from Department funding. Caps administrative overhead costs and mandates conflict-of-interest policies.

Proposed Rule 414-900-0110: Early Learning Hub Governance Structure

Expands Governance Council membership to include health, education, human services, housing, business, parent/caregiver and Tribal representatives. Formalizes Governance Councils' authority over investments, requiring bylaws that ensure transparency, dispute resolution, and public engagement. Introduces a process for Governance Councils to request a transition of the backbone entity if confidence is lost.

Proposed Rule 414-900-0500: Data Collection and Reporting

Requires Hubs to use Department-approved data collection tools to ensure accuracy and consistency. Mandates that data be used for strategic planning, continuous improvement, and measuring child and family outcomes. Strengthens confidentiality protections for family and child-level data in compliance with applicable regulations.

DOCUMENTS RELIED UPON, AND WHERE THEY ARE AVAILABLE

No documents were relied upon for these rule amendments and proposals. For more information on the administration of the Early Learning Hubs, please visit <https://www.oregon.gov/delc/programs/pages/hubs.aspx>.

STATEMENT IDENTIFYING HOW ADOPTION OF RULE(S) WILL AFFECT RACIAL EQUITY IN THIS STATE

The proposed rule amendments are expected to impact racially and ethnically diverse communities, particularly those historically and currently facing systemic barriers to accessing early learning opportunities. Families from Black, Indigenous, Latino, Pacific Islander, and other communities of color, as well as those with limited English proficiency, may experience both positive and negative effects. These communities often face disparities in early childhood education due to factors such as income inequality, geographic barriers, and historical disinvestment in culturally responsive services. However, increased coordination and alignment across sectors (as led by Early Learning Hubs) aim to increase access to resources especially for priority populations.

Specific Impacts on Racially/Ethnically Specific Communities

The rule changes aim to strengthen the role of Early Learning Hubs in centering the voices of marginalized families, which could improve service access and quality for these communities. By enhancing regional coordination and strategic planning, the amendments may lead to better alignment of resources to meet the needs of culturally diverse families. However, there is also a risk that administrative cost increases at the Hub level could shift funding away from direct services, potentially impacting partners that serve these communities. Additionally, changes in grant administration processes could create new challenges for smaller, community-based providers, particularly those operating with limited administrative capacity.

Data Used to Validate the Assessment

The assessment is informed by data sources such as Oregon's Kindergarten Assessment Reports, Early Learning Needs Assessment, and racial equity impact analyses conducted by DELC. Additionally, statewide demographic data, regional disparities in early childhood education access, and feedback from Hubs and providers serving diverse populations are being reviewed to understand the potential impacts. Community engagement efforts, including surveys and focus groups, also provide insight into how these rule changes might affect families and providers.

Tribal Consultation and Engagement

DELC has issued a Dear Tribal Leader Letter informing Oregon's nine federally recognized Tribes of the proposed amendments and new proposed rules. This letter includes an invitation to participate in the Rules Advisory Committee (RAC) and a tribal consultation meeting will be offered to be scheduled to provide an opportunity for discussion, with outcomes documented and reported, if requested.

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT:

The proposed rule amendments may have a moderate financial impact on the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELC). They will impact DELC by increasing the cost of grant administration for the 16 regional Early Learning Hubs.

Regionally, families with children prenatal to 6 years old will benefit from increased coordination and alignment across sectors due to rules clarity. For example, this alignment could have positive impact for families by improving access to resources in health, early learning and care, housing, K-12 and other services and supports. In addition, due to fiscal

clarity, Early Learning Hubs will likely expand their investments and capacity to better reach priority populations.

The proposed rule amendments to the Early Learning Hub rules are expected to have economic impacts on both benefit recipients, including children and families, and partners. For families, the changes could lead to improved access to early learning services, particularly for those in historically underserved communities. Strengthened coordination and funding structures may enhance program quality, benefiting children's learning and development. Additionally, the increased focus on family engagement could result in services that are more responsive to community needs. However, there may be temporary disruptions in services during the transition period, and if administrative costs increase, there is a possibility that program resources could be reallocated, impacting direct services.

For regional service partners, the amendments could create more strategic funding distribution, leading to more consistent and equitable financial support. Improved regional coordination may also foster stronger collaboration among regional service partners, reducing inefficiencies and ensuring targeted support for priority populations. However, there is a risk of increased administrative burdens if compliance and reporting requirements become more demanding. Additionally, funding shifts at the Hub level may affect regional service providers' financial stability if administrative costs rise and resources are redistributed. However, the fiscal stability varies among regions, Hubs, and partners.

COST OF COMPLIANCE:

(1) Identify any state agencies, units of local government, and members of the public likely to be economically affected by the rule(s). (2) Effect on Small Businesses: (a) Estimate the number and type of small businesses subject to the rule(s); (b) Describe the expected reporting, recordkeeping and administrative activities and cost required to comply with the rule(s); (c) Estimate the cost of professional services, equipment supplies, labor and increased administration required to comply with the rule(s).

(1) DELC is likely to be economically affected by the rule(s), however no additional state agencies or local governments are likely to be economically affected by the rule(s). Organizations holding an Early Learning Hub grant agreement are likely to be economically affected by the rule(s).

(2) Backbone entities such as Education Service Districts, coordinated care organizations, nonprofits, county government, and community colleges that are assisting in the administration of Early Learning Hub activities, may be impacted.

(a) There are currently 16 regional Early Learning Hubs.

(b) While there is no anticipated cost of compliance to entities and partners with the adoption of these rules, Hubs may experience an increased administrative burden due to potential changes in reporting and compliance requirements. However, these rules are not expected to necessitate new equipment, supplies, additional staff, or additional training.

(c) At this time, no specific costs for compliance with these rule changes have been determined. However, there may be financial impacts related to increased administrative costs for Early Learning Hubs, which could indirectly affect investment to partners.

DESCRIBE HOW SMALL BUSINESSES WERE INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE RULE(S):

DELC will convene a Rules Advisory Committee (RAC) with community partners from across the state, including organizations serving populations representing racial, ethnic, geographic, socioeconomic, and linguistic diversity, to inform the development of the administrative rules. The RAC will meet three times in April and May of 2025. In addition to the RAC meetings, DELC will convene two listening sessions with community partners. DELC held listening sessions with Early Learning Hub Directors and backbone entities.

DELC will seek additional public comments by posting drafts of the administrative rules on its website and seeking comments both in writing and through a public hearing on May 12, 2025.

The communication plan for the permanent rule change will ensure that all community partners, including Early Learning Hubs, early childhood providers, families, Tribal Nations, and community partners, are informed and engaged. DELC will share the final rule language through public notices on its website and the Oregon Secretary of State's Administrative Rules website, along with a plain-language summary highlighting key changes. To ensure accessibility, materials will be translated into Spanish, Somali, Vietnamese, Chinese, Russian, and other commonly spoken languages in Oregon. Alternative formats, such as large print, Braille, and audio versions, will also be made available upon request.

Direct outreach will be conducted through focused email notifications to Early Learning Hubs, providers, and partners, explaining the changes and their implications. DELC will also host listening sessions, Q&A sessions, and regional Hub meetings to provide further clarification as requested. Additionally, DELC will engage families and providers through public listening sessions and an online feedback form to gather and address concerns.

To ensure broad awareness, DELC will provide briefings to legislators, the Governor's office, and relevant state agencies. Following implementation, DELC will continue working with Hubs and providers to monitor any challenges, offer technical assistance, and maintain open feedback channels through advisory groups and surveys. This ongoing engagement will help ensure that community partners are supported throughout the transition and that the rule changes effectively serve Oregon's early learning communities.

WAS AN ADMINISTRATIVE RULE ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSULTED? YES

RULES PROPOSED:

414-800-0005, 414-800-0010, 414-800-0015, 414-800-0020, 414-800-0025, 414-800-0030, 414-800-0105, 414-800-0110, 414-800-0115, 414-800-0120, 414-800-0125, 414-800-0130, 414-900-0005, 414-900-0010, 414-900-0011, 414-900-0015, 414-900-0030, 414-900-0100, 414-900-0110, 414-900-0500, 414-900-0510

REPEAL: 414-800-0005

RULE SUMMARY: OAR 414-800-0005 is being repealed and integrated into revisions of OAR 414-900-0010: Definitions.

CHANGES TO RULE:

~~414-800-0005~~

~~Definitions ¶¶~~

~~(1) "Achievement gap" means the research-based gap in achievement that often exists among students who are economically disadvantaged, students learning English as a second language and students who are African American, Hispanic or Native American and their peers. ¶¶~~

~~(2) "At Risk" means a child who is at risk of not entering school ready to learn due to factors including but not limited to: ¶¶~~

~~(a) Living in a household that is at or near poverty, as determined under federal poverty guidelines; ¶¶~~

~~(b) Living in inadequate or unsafe housing; having inadequate nutrition; ¶¶~~

~~(c) Living in a household where there is significant or documented domestic conflict, disruption or violence; ¶¶~~

~~(d) Having a parent who suffers from mental illness, who engages in substance abuse or who experiences a developmental disability or an intellectual disability; ¶¶~~

~~(e) Living in circumstances under which there is neglectful or abusive care-giving; or ¶¶~~

~~(f) Having unmet health care and medical treatment needs and having a racial or ethnic minority status that is historically consistent with disproportionate overrepresentation in academic achievement gaps or in the systems of child welfare, foster care or juvenile or adult corrections. ¶¶~~

~~(3) "Early childhood services" means programs and services for children ages birth through six years of age that address language and literacy development, cognition and general knowledge and learning approaches, physical health and well-being, motor development and social and emotional development. Providers of early childhood~~

services include Early Learning Hubs, relief nurseries, home visiting programs, child care providers, preschools, Head Start, Oregon Pre-K, and others who provide programs and services for children ages birth through six.¶¶

(4) "Early Learning Hub" means an existing or newly created entity designated by regional partners to coordinate early learning services designed to produce better outcomes for children: increase kindergarten readiness for at-risk children, to increase the stable and attached families and to ensure system coordination and efficiency in order to attain Oregon's 40-40-20 Educational Goal. Regional partners may include counties, cities, school districts, education service districts, community colleges, public universities, private educational institutions, faith-based organizations, nonprofit service providers, and tribes.¶¶

(5) "English Language Learners" means children whose native language is other than English or who speak a language other than English in their home.¶¶

(6) "Non-profit organization" means:¶¶

(a) An organization established as a nonprofit organization under the laws of Oregon; and¶¶

(b) Qualifies as an exempt organization under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code as defined in ORS 314.011.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 336.101, ORS 336.104

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 336.104

REPEAL: 414-800-0010

RULE SUMMARY: OAR 414-800-0010 is being repealed and integrated into the Early Learning Hub ruleset in OARs 414-900-0005 through 414-900-0510.

CHANGES TO RULE:

~~414-800-0010~~

~~Establishment and Purpose¶¶~~

~~(1) The early literacy grant is established as part of the Oregon Early Reading Program Strategic Investment.¶¶~~

~~(2) The purpose of the early literacy grant is to:¶¶~~

~~(a) Improve the readiness of children preparing to enter kindergarten;¶¶~~

~~(b) Improve the reading proficiency of students by the time students complete the third grade;¶¶~~

~~(c) Encourage early reading by involving parents, child care providers, and the community to ensure that children have an early start in reading;¶¶~~

~~(d) Expand the amount of time spent reading, adult support of reading, the availability of reading materials, cultural relevance and promote the level of enjoyment that literacy brings; and¶¶~~

~~(e) Create materials and curriculum that promote early literacy.~~

~~Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 336.101, ORS 336.104~~

~~Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 336.104~~

REPEAL: 414-800-0015

RULE SUMMARY: OAR 414-800-0015 is being repealed and integrated into the Early Learning Hub ruleset in OARs 414-900-0005 through 414-900-0510.

CHANGES TO RULE:

~~414-800-0015~~

~~Eligibility ¶¶~~

~~(1) The following types of organizations may apply for funding: ¶¶~~

~~(a) Non-profit organizations; ¶¶~~

~~(b) Public libraries; ¶¶~~

~~(c) Public schools or school districts; ¶¶~~

~~(d) Providers of early childhood services. ¶¶~~

~~(2) The Department shall give preference to receive funding to providers of early childhood services that are Early Learning Hubs. ¶¶~~

~~(3) A single grant proposal may include more than one eligible provider but the fiscal agent must be one of the eligible applicants identified in subsections (1) or (2) of this rule.~~

~~Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 336.101, ORS ORS 336.104~~

~~Statutes/Other Implemented:~~

REPEAL: 414-800-0020

RULE SUMMARY: OAR 414-800-0020 is being repealed and integrated into the Early Learning Hub ruleset in OARs 414-900-0005 through 414-900-0510.

CHANGES TO RULE:

~~414-800-0020~~

~~Criteria¶¶~~

~~(1) The Department shall establish a request for application with a solicitation and approval process to be conducted each biennium for which early literacy grant funds under the Oregon Early Reading Program are available. The Department shall notify eligible applicants of the proposal process and due dates, and make available necessary guidelines and application forms.¶¶~~

~~(2) Grants shall be awarded based on the following generally applicable criteria:¶¶~~

~~(a) The extent to which the applicant demonstrates its ability to lead the implementation of the early literacy program, foster collaboration with other community partners, and leverage the early literacy program as a key strategy for promoting alignment between early learning and K-3.¶¶~~

~~(b) The extent to which the grant application addresses equity and strategies for targeting specific sub-populations of children, including those who are economically disadvantaged, students learning English as a second language, and students who are African American, Hispanic or Native American; those who are not currently enrolled in formal Pre-K or child care programs, including those participating in license exempt and relative care; and/or those who meet criteria for being at risk of entering kindergarten with limited literacy skills.¶¶~~

~~(c) The extent to which the application identifies clear strategies for building the capacity of adults to engage in high quality reading experiences with children, expanding reading opportunities for children, increasing the frequency with which children are read to in the home, and expanding access to books, libraries, and/or materials and curriculum that promote early literacy.¶¶~~

~~(d) The extent to which the project budget is appropriate for the number of children and adults that are proposed to be reached through the proposed early literacy program.¶¶~~

~~(e) The extent to which the application demonstrates how outcomes will be measured and sustainability will be achieved.¶¶~~

~~(3) The Department shall allocate funds for the grant program based on the evaluation of the grant application and the following considerations:¶¶~~

~~(a) Geographic location of applicants to insure geographic diversity within the recipients of grant program funds throughout the state;¶¶~~

~~(b) Preference to entities that have demonstrated success in improving outcomes for children and families.~~

~~Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 336.101, ORS 336.104~~

~~Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 336.104~~

REPEAL: 414-800-0025

RULE SUMMARY: OAR 414-800-0025 is being repealed and integrated into the Early Learning Hub ruleset in OARs 414-900-0005 through 414-900-0510.

CHANGES TO RULE:

~~414-800-0025~~

~~Funding.~~

~~(1) The Department shall determine for each fiscal year the portion of the funds available for the early literacy grant.~~

~~(2) Funds received under this section must be separately accounted for and may be used only to provide funding for the purposes described in the application of the grant recipient.~~

~~Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 336.101, ORS 336.104~~

~~Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 336.104~~

REPEAL: 414-800-0030

RULE SUMMARY: OAR 414-800-0030 is being repealed and integrated into the Early Learning Hub ruleset in OARs 414-900-0005 through 414-900-0510.

CHANGES TO RULE:

~~414-800-0030~~

~~Reporting ¶¶~~

~~Recipients of early literacy grant funds must report on their grant funded program outcomes and expenditures to the Early Learning Council on an annual basis through a written report to the Department. The report must include:¶¶~~

~~(1) Description of outputs and activities resulting from the early literacy partnership strategy, including, but not limited to trainings delivered to parents and/or providers or early learning services, books or other materials provided to families and/or providers of early learning services, and number of adults and children reached.¶¶~~

~~(2) Impact on changes in adult behavior related to reading to children, including but not limited to frequency and quality of reading.¶¶~~

~~(3) Impact on changes in child behavior related to reading with adults, including but not limited to frequency and quality of reading.¶¶~~

~~(4) Impact on adult and child attitudes toward reading, including, but not limited to, self-reports related to increased enjoyment of reading.¶¶~~

~~(5) Impact on closing early literacy opportunity gaps for children who are economically disadvantaged, English language learners, African American, Hispanic, or Native American.~~

~~Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 336.101, ORS 336.104~~

~~Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 336.104~~

REPEAL: 414-800-0105

RULE SUMMARY: OAR 414-800-0105 is being repealed and integrated into the Early Learning Hub ruleset in OARs 414-900-0005 through 414-900-0510.

CHANGES TO RULE:

~~414-800-0105~~

~~Definitions~~

The following definitions apply to OAR ~~414-800-0105 to 414-800-0130~~:

- ~~(1) "Achievement gap" means the research-based gap in achievement that often exists among students who are economically disadvantaged, students learning English as a second language and students who are African American, Hispanic or Native American and their peers.~~
 - ~~(2) "At Risk" means a child who is at risk of not entering school ready to learn due to factors including but not limited to:~~
 - ~~(a) Living in a household that is at or near poverty, as determined under federal poverty guidelines;~~
 - ~~(b) Living in inadequate or unsafe housing; having inadequate nutrition;~~
 - ~~(c) Living in a household where there is significant or documented domestic conflict, disruption or violence;~~
 - ~~(d) Having a parent who suffers from mental illness, who engages in substance abuse or who experiences a developmental disability or an intellectual disability;~~
 - ~~(e) Living in circumstances under which there is neglectful or abusive care-giving; or~~
 - ~~(f) Having unmet health care and medical treatment needs and having a racial or ethnic minority status that is historically consistent with disproportionate overrepresentation in academic achievement gaps or in the systems of child welfare, foster care or juvenile or adult corrections.~~
 - ~~(3) "Early childhood services" means programs and services for children ages 0 through 6 years of age that address language and literacy development, cognition and general knowledge and learning approaches, physical health and well-being, motor development and social and emotional development. Providers of early childhood services include Early Learning Hubs, relief nurseries, home visiting programs, child care providers, preschools, Head Start, Oregon Pre-K, and others who provide programs and services for children ages 0-6.~~
 - ~~(4) "Early Learning Hub" means an existing or newly created entity designated by regional partners to coordinate early learning services designed to produce better outcomes for children: increase kindergarten readiness for at-risk children, to increase the stable and attached families and to ensure system coordination and efficiency in order to attain Oregon's 40-40-20 Educational Goal. Regional partners may include counties, cities, school districts, education service districts, community colleges, public universities, private educational institutions, faith based organizations, nonprofit service providers, and tribes.~~
 - ~~(5) "Elementary school" means any public school that has at least kindergarten, first, second, and third grade classes.~~
 - ~~(6) "English Language Learners" means children whose native language is other than English or who speak a language other than English in their home.~~
 - ~~(7) "Non-profit organization" means:~~
 - ~~(a) An organization established as a nonprofit organization under the laws of Oregon; and~~
 - ~~(b) Qualifies as an exempt organization under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code as defined in ORS 314.011.~~
 - ~~(8) "Postsecondary Institution" means a:~~
 - ~~(a) A community college operated under ORS chapter 341.~~
 - ~~(b) The following public universities within the Oregon University System:~~
 - ~~(A) University of Oregon.~~
 - ~~(B) Oregon State University.~~
 - ~~(C) Portland State University.~~
 - ~~(D) Oregon Institute of Technology.~~
 - ~~(E) Western Oregon University.~~
 - ~~(F) Southern Oregon University.~~
 - ~~(G) Eastern Oregon University.~~
 - ~~(c) Oregon Health and Science University.~~
 - ~~(d) An Oregon-based, generally accredited, not-for-profit institution of higher education.~~
- ~~Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 336.101, ORS 336.104~~
~~Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 336.104~~

REPEAL: 414-800-0110

RULE SUMMARY: OAR 414-800-0110 is being repealed and integrated into the Early Learning Hub ruleset in OARs 414-900-0005 through 414-900-0510.

CHANGES TO RULE:

~~414-800-0110~~

~~Establishment and Purpose~~

~~(1) The Early Learning Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation Program is established by ORS 336.101.~~

~~(2) This program creates the opportunity to increase the connection between early learning and K-12 by investing in innovative and promising models for early learning/K-12 integration across the state and to build a body of evidence that Oregon can use to create stronger alignment between its early learning and K-12 education systems. The goal of this program is to promote community and school partnerships and innovations that result in measurable increase in children's readiness for kindergarten.~~

~~Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 336.101, ORS 336.104~~

~~Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 336.104~~

REPEAL: 414-800-0115

RULE SUMMARY: OAR 414-800-0115 is being repealed and integrated into the Early Learning Hub ruleset in OARs 414-900-0005 through 414-900-0510.

CHANGES TO RULE:

~~414-800-0115~~

~~Eligibility ¶¶~~

~~The following types of organizations may apply for funding: ¶¶~~

~~(1) Early Learning Hubs; ¶¶~~

~~(2) Education Service Districts; ¶¶~~

~~(3) K-12 school districts; ¶¶~~

~~(4) Non-profit organizations; ¶¶~~

~~(5) Post-Secondary institutions; or ¶¶~~

~~(6) A collaboration of any of the above.~~

~~Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 336.101~~

~~Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 336.104~~

REPEAL: 414-800-0120

RULE SUMMARY: OAR 414-800-0120 is being repealed and integrated into the Early Learning Hub ruleset in OARs 414-900-0005 through 414-900-0510.

CHANGES TO RULE:

~~414-800-0120~~

~~Criteria¶¶~~

~~(1) Applicants for grant funds must meet one or more of the following criteria:¶¶~~

~~(a) Form a partnership with at least one provider of early learning services, licensed childcare provider or elementary school;¶¶~~

~~(b) Form partnerships with community-based providers of early childhood services to provide preschool and other early learning strategies;¶¶~~

~~(c) Establish ambitious but meaningful targets for kindergarten readiness;¶¶~~

~~(d) Invest resources in serving a significant number of children in communities with high concentration of poverty, underserved racial groups, non-native English speakers, or rural and remote communities;¶¶~~

~~(e) Align with and supplement federal programs to provide moneys for educational purposes;¶¶~~

~~(f) Agree to report to, and partner with all Early Learning Hubs serving the region.¶¶~~

~~(2) Applicants must demonstrate:¶¶~~

~~(a) A proven track record of ability to achieve developmental outcomes for children.¶¶~~

~~(b) A clear commitment to equity.¶¶~~

~~(c) The proposed plan is likely to:¶¶~~

~~(A) Result in a demonstrable connection between early learning providers and schools; and¶¶~~

~~(B) Improve kindergarten readiness as measured by the Oregon Kindergarten Assessment.¶¶~~

~~(3) Priority for funding will be given to applicants that:¶¶~~

~~(a) Assist children in becoming ready for kindergarten or being successful in kindergarten;¶¶~~

~~(b) Share professional developments strategies and resources with providers of early learning services, child care providers and kindergarten teachers;¶¶~~

~~(c) Demonstrate a commitment to family engagement and three-way partnerships among early childhood programs, school, and parents and families; or¶¶~~

~~(d) Demonstrate the grant funds will serve a significant number of children in communities with high concentration of poverty, underserved racial or ethnic groups, non-native English speakers, or rural and remote communities.~~

~~Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 336.101~~

~~Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 336.104~~

REPEAL: 414-800-0125

RULE SUMMARY: OAR 414-800-0125 is being repealed and integrated into the Early Learning Hub ruleset in OARs 414-900-0005 through 414-900-0510.

CHANGES TO RULE:

~~414-800-0125~~

~~Funding ¶¶~~

~~(1) The Early Learning Council shall determine for each fiscal year the portion of the funds available for the early learning kindergarten readiness partnership and innovation fund. ¶¶~~

~~(2) Funds received under this section must be separately accounted for and may be used only to provide funding for the purposes described in the application of the grant recipient. ¶¶~~

~~(3) Funds may not be used for capital expenses or to supplant existing federal or state funds.~~

~~Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 336.101~~

~~Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 336.104~~

REPEAL: 414-800-0130

RULE SUMMARY: OAR 414-800-0130 is being repealed and integrated into the Early Learning Hub ruleset in OARs 414-900-0005 through 414-900-0510.

CHANGES TO RULE:

~~414-800-0130~~

~~Reporting ¶¶~~

~~Recipients of these funds must report on the grant to the Early Learning Council via the Department at the end of the grant period. The report must include at least:¶¶~~

~~(1) Description of outputs and activities related to implementation of the early learning/K-12 partnership strategy.¶¶~~

~~(2) Impact on kindergarten readiness, as measured by the Oregon Kindergarten Assessment.¶¶~~

~~(3) Impact on the attitudes, behaviors, and instructional practices of early childhood educators and kindergarten teachers.¶¶~~

~~(4) Impact on the attitudes, behaviors, and practices of children's families.~~

~~Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 336.101~~

~~Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 336.104~~

AMEND: 414-900-0005

RULE SUMMARY: OAR 414-900-0005 clarifies the Department of Early Learning and Care's (DELC) authority in administering the Early Learning Hub system under ORS 417.827. It establishes a framework for collaboration across sectors to implement Raise Up Oregon and Hub agreement goals and ensure equitable, family-centered early childhood services. The scope includes governance, operational, and fiscal roles of Hubs and their relationship with backbone agencies.

CHANGES TO RULE:

414-900-0005

Applicability of Rules ¶

~~(1) OAR 414-900-0005 through 414-900-0020 set forth the purpose and functions of Early Learning Hubs (Hubs).¶~~

~~(2) OAR 414-900-0005 through 414-900-0020 set forth the criteria used by the Early Learning Council (ELC) to select Hubs.~~Under ORS 417.827, the Department of Early Learning and Care (Department) has authority to administer the Early Learning Hub system, ensuring equitable and comprehensive early childhood services across the state. ¶

~~(2) The purpose of these rules is to establish the framework under which the Department administers the Early Learning Hubs (Hubs) system. Early Learning Hubs foster collaboration across sectors, working with state, local, and community partners to implement the goals outlined in Raise Up Oregon and other relevant state strategic plans, ensuring that the early childhood system is family-centered, accessible, and inclusive. ¶~~

~~(3) The scope of division 900 rules is to establish eligibility criteria and requirements of Early Learning Hubs. These rules define the governance, operational, and fiscal roles of Early Learning Hubs, including their relationship with backbone agencies and the Department, ensuring alignment with Raise Up Oregon's integrated, anti-racist, and collaborative framework.~~

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 417.728, ORS 417.827

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 417.728, ORS 417.827

RULE SUMMARY: OAR 414-900-0010 is being amended to update and expand definitions to include terms like "Autonomous Authority," "Backbone Entity," and "Priority Populations." The definition of "At Risk" now explicitly includes systemic and individual racism or discrimination as factors affecting child well-being. The rule also defines the Governance Council's independent decision-making authority over funding and strategic direction.

CHANGES TO RULE:

414-900-0010

Definitions ¶¶

The following words and terms within these rules have the following meanings: ¶¶

(1) "Administrative Overhead" means any dollar that is not spent directly on services for children or on preparing and evaluating services for children. This is the cost of operating administrative functions within the Hub and its subcontractors and may include staff duties such as payroll processing and data entry and non-program related costs including space, supplies and phones. ¶¶

(2) "At Poverty Level" means at 100% of federal poverty guidelines as adopted by the United States Department of Health and Human Service. ¶¶

(3) "At Risk" means a child who is at risk of not entering school ready to learn in which the child may not be thriving due to factors including but not limited to: ¶¶

(a) Living in a household that is at or near poverty level, as determined under federal poverty guidelines; ¶¶

(b) Living in inadequate or unsafe housing; having inadequate nutrition; ¶¶

(c) Living in a household where there is housing that is inadequate; ¶¶

(c) Significant or documented domestic conflict, disruption or violence; ¶¶

(d) Having a parent or caregiver who suffers from mental illness, who engages in substance abuse or who experiences a developmental disability or an intellectual disability; ¶¶

(e) Living in circumstances under which there is neglectful or abusive care-giving; or ¶¶

(f) Having unmet health care and medical treatment needs and having a racial or ethnic minority status that is historically consistent with disproportionate that are unmet; or ¶¶

(g) Experiencing the impact of structural and individual racism or discrimination. ¶¶

(4) "Autonomous Authority" means the independent authority and resulting decision-making capacity of the Governance Council, as described in ORS 417.827. ¶¶

(5) "Backbone Entity" means the organization that provides administrative, operational, and fiscal support to the Early Learning Hub. A backbone entity is an organization that has an aligned mission and the resources to support an Early Learning Hub's vision, mission, and role in adult corrections-vancing the regional early childhood system. ¶¶

(46) "Community of interest" means a special population not constrained by geography. ¶¶

(57) "Early Childhood Services" means programs and services for children ages 0 through prenatal to 6 years of age that address language and literacy development, cognition and general knowledge and learning approaches, physical health and well-being, motor development and social and emotional development. ¶¶

(68) "Early Learning Hub" means an existing or newly created entity designated by regional partners to coordinate early learning services or "Hub" is comprised of a Governance Council, which consists of cross-sector partners, a Hub Director(s) and staff, and operational support from a Backbone Entity. A Hub may stand-up their own operational and organizational structures without relying on a Backbone Entity if able to demonstrate stability to the satisfaction of the Department. Hubs have statutorily designated authority to integrate early learning services across systems and geographic boundaries. [OAR?] ¶¶

(9) "Family Advisory Council" means a group of parents and caregivers providing input and guidance to the Governance Council to ensure family voices are central to regional decision-making. ¶¶

(10) "Family Voice and Leadership" means incorporating parent/caregiver and family voice in decision-making processes, with an emphasis on leadership roles. ¶¶

(11) "Governance Council" means a multisector council who is the autonomous body responsible for providing strategic leadership and oversight for the Early Learning Hub. The Governance Council oversees the allocation of resources and investments and ensures that the Hub's priorities are executed successfully, with an emphasis on outcomes and continuous improvement. The Governance Council operates with full in-charge for at-risk children, to increase the stable and attached family commitment decision-making authority for the functions of the Hub, independent of the Backbone Entity's day-to-day operations. ¶¶

(12) "In-kind contributions" means contributions to project scope other than cash. In-Kind Contributions include

but are not limited to: provision of rent-free space, provision of utilities, provision of custodial services, provision of secretarial services, provision of liability insurance benefits, administrative services, and to ensure system transportation services. ¶

(13) "Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation Program" or "KPI" is a program that invests in promising models for connecting early learning and Kindergarten across the state, and coordination and efficiency in order to attain Oregon's 40-40-20 Educational Goal. Regional partners may include counties, cities, school districts, education service districts, community colleges, public universities, private educational institutions, faith based organizations, nonprofit service providers, and tribeses regional efforts that address disparities and promote equity in early learning, K-12, and other regional sectors. KPI is focused on Priority Populations, particularly children and families that might not have the support they need for a successful transition to kindergarten and/or kindergarten experience. ¶

(14) "Operational Support" includes any combination of: human resources, fiscal management, signing contracts and accepting responsibility for the Hub's outcomes, support for operations, supporting the Governance Council. ¶

(15) "Opportunity Gap" means: the ways in which race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, English proficiency, community wealth, familial situations, or other factors contribute to or perpetuate lower educational aspirations, achievement, and attainment for certain groups of students. ¶

(16) "Priority Populations" means communities historically marginalized or underserved, including but not limited to communities of color, tribal members, rural families, and families experiencing poverty. ¶

(17) "System Coordination Funds" or "System Coordination Funding" is the main funding stream provided by the Department of Early Learning and Care for the operation of the regional early learning hubs as outlined in the Early Learning Hub Grant Agreement.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 417.728, ORS 417.827

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 417.728, ORS 417.827

ADOPT: 414-900-0011

RULE SUMMARY: OAR 414-900-0011 states that the Hub Director leads regional system coordination and ensures alignment with Raise Up Oregon. While employed by the backbone entity for administrative purposes, the Director must independently oversee Hub fiscal transparency, community partnerships, and strategic initiatives. The proposed rule expands responsibilities to include continuous monitoring of Hub effectiveness and equity in service delivery while addressing the needs of the region's priority populations

CHANGES TO RULE:

414-900-0011

Early Learning Hub Director Role

Each Hub must have a designated Hub Director(s) who focuses on centering equity and addressing the needs of the region's priority populations. The Hub Director(s) is the conduit, connector, and systems capacity builder of the Early Learning Hub. The Hub Director(s) leads strategies, communication and alignment in coordination with the Governance Council. ¶

(1) In partnership with the Governance Council, the Early Learning Hub Director must administer the functions of the Hub as outlined in Oregon Administrative Rule 414-900-0015 and the Grant Agreement. The Hub Director(s) must: ¶

(a) Work in close partnership with the backbone entity to ensure the financial transparency and accountability of the Hub's operations per the Grant Agreement; and ¶

(b) Maintain a clear and comprehensive understanding of how the Department provided funds are allocated and spent, as outlined in the Grant Agreement. ¶

(2) While the Hub Director(s) is employed by the backbone entity for administrative purposes, their role and responsibilities are distinct in that they provide leadership, coordination, and oversight of the Hub's strategic initiatives and community engagement efforts. The Hub Director's(s') role, while different region to region, must include: ¶

(a) Engaging with the backbone entity to facilitate operations and fiscal support for the Hub, ¶

(b) Developing a budget for the Hub and managing fiscal responsibilities. ¶

(c) Communicating priorities on behalf of the Governance Council; and ¶

(d) Serving as a liaison to the Department, which includes but is not limited to: ¶

(A) Engaging in meetings convened by the Department, ¶

(B) Attending technical assistance/peer learning opportunities as convened by the Department, ¶

(C) Staying apprised of Department policies, initiatives, updates and equity goals, and ¶

(D) Ensuring the Governance Council is up to date on Department policies. ¶

(e) Leading regional alignment and coordination of early learning systems as follows: ¶

(A) Creating a shared vision for the regional early childhood system. ¶

(B) Engaging cross-sector and community partners. ¶

(C) Engaging in system-focused problem-solving and action. ¶

(D) Engaging in continuous learning and improvement of regional early childhood system plans. ¶

(E) Facilitating strategic convening of sector and community partners. ¶

(f) Ensuring alignment with Raise Up Oregon and other state priorities. ¶

(g) Monitoring the effectiveness and equity of Hub operations.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 417.728, ORS 417.827

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 417.728, ORS 417.827

RULE SUMMARY: OAR 414-900-0015 is being amended to formalize the requirement for Hubs to coordinate across six core service sectors, conduct regional assessments, and publicly report governance and budget decisions. The amendments strengthen the role of the Governance Council in investment decision-making and emphasizes equity-driven service delivery to close opportunity gaps.

CHANGES TO RULE:

414-900-0015

Early Learning Hubs Purpose and Functions ¶¶

Hubs are established to coordinate and align early learning and care services for children ages 0 through 6 from birth to age six within a specific geographic area or community of interest, i.e., including special populations not constrained by geography in order. The purpose of Hubs is to produce better improved outcomes for children. Hubs are vested with the authority to distribute state and federal fund and families by leveraging public and private resources, coordinate services for children, and purchasing services for children and families. Hubs can leverage public and private funds in their efforts to attain results. Because Hubs are established to coordinate services with current service providers and, or purchase new services to support specific child centered outcomes, including kindergarten readiness, to address local needs. ¶¶

(1) Hubs are conveners of cross-sector partners and facilitators of regional strategies aimed at advancing outcomes aligned with state priorities, including Raise Up Oregon goals. A Hub that provides direct services must meet additional criteria set forth in OAR 414-900-0020(1)(g)(F). ¶¶

(12) Hubs must: ¶¶

(a) Account for outcom deliver services that benefit children within the Hub geographic area or community of interest by; and families in the Hub's assigned geographic area or community including, but not limited to: ¶¶

(Aa) Aligning service delivery focused on outcomes across five functional sectors and be able to prove that entities that represent the follow across six core functional sectors and ensuring factive functional sectors are participating in the Hub; participation of representatives from: ¶¶

(iA) Health care services, ¶¶

(iiB) Human and social services, ¶¶

(iii) EC) Public education services, ¶¶

(ivD) Early childhood services, and learning and care services, ¶¶

(E) Tribes within the assigned Hub region, ¶¶

(vF) Business, ¶¶

(BG) Ensuring that service providers which the Hub coordinates and contracts with are also acHousing, ¶¶

(H) Higher education and workforce development; and ¶¶

(I) Other necessary sector partners as defined in Grant Agreement. ¶¶

(b) Developing kindergarten readiness strategies utilizing the Early Learning Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation Program (KPI) funding as established by ORS 336.101. ¶¶

(c) Ensuring that service providers countable to the Hub for client-racted by the Hub are accountable for child and family level outcomes that supporting Oregon's 40-40-20 Educational Goal. ¶¶

(b) Complete a community readiness assessment to determ the objectives of Oregon's Raise Up Oregon; and ¶¶

(d) Developing strategies that improve child-centered outcomes, which include kindergarten readiness, stable and healthy families, and community-wide systems alignment. ¶¶

(3) Each Hub must conduct a regional assessment of the early childhood system ine the readiness to effectively coordinate services to achieve outcomes by: ¶¶

(A) Working with providers the Hub plans to contrir assigned region. The assessment must identify the capacity and readiness of local partners to coordinate services effectively. Each Hub must submit the regional assessment to the Department as outlined in the Graent with to ensure readiness to provider efficient, outcome focused services, and ¶¶

(B) Using the community readiness assessment to connect services to outcomes and resources. ¶¶

(c) Map and coordinate funding to maximize Agreement. ¶¶

(4) Hubs, through the direction of their Governance Council, are vested with the authority to distribute state, federal, and other funds to invest in their assigned priority populations across sectors. Hubs must ensure funding alignment withe return of the investmentgional priorities, and coordination by: ¶¶

(Aa) CreatDeveloping and maintaining a comprehensive children's budget for the Hub territory model funds allocated onby the state level comprehensive children's budget, Department to the Hub region. ¶¶

(Bb) Mapping all funding streams, including local, state, federal, and philanthropic dollars currently available or

committed to the proposed service area and ensuring funders are willing to collaborate toward a set of shared outcomes advancing Oregon's 40-40-20 Educational Goal, resources. ¶

(c) Ensuring alignment to shared outcomes that support the objectives of Oregon's Raise Up Oregon, as outlined in 414-900-0015(2)(c). ¶

(Cd) Ensuring that contracted service providers are accountable for providing services in a cost efficient manner, and that align with shared goals of KPI, as outlined in 414-900-0015(2)(b). ¶

(De) Ensuring that no more than 15% of the total funds received from the ELC go toward administrative overhead by the end of the contract period. ¶

(d) If individual Providing a match of 25% of the system coordination funds that: ¶

(A) Excludes funds received from KPI and federal Title IV-B for purposes of calculating the total system coordination funding. ¶

(B) Provides matching funds that are not through funding awarded by the Department. The matching funds must be provided through other allowable financials spend more than 15% of their time on administrative functions, their salaries and expenses must be prorated between program and administrative overhead, support, including in-kind contributions. ¶

(f) Ensuring public access to budgets, governance decisions, meeting minutes or recordings, and key reports on a website maintained by the Hub. ¶

(5) Hub must conduct strategic convenings and engagement, which includes: ¶

(ea) Reporting to the ELC on making progress towards th Convening cross-sector partners and community stakeholders to facilitate following outcomes: ¶

(A) Kindergarten readiness, in support of Oregon's 40-40-20 Educational Goal, ¶

(B) Stable and attached family collaborative planning, problem-solving, and alignment to inform investment strategies. ¶

(b) Facilitating family voice in the design and implementation of Hub activities, and priorities. ¶

(Cc) System coordination and efficiency. Leading continuous improvement efforts for their assigned regional early childhood system. ¶

(2d) Reports shall be submitted by the Hub to appropriate interim legislative committee and the ELC by January 1, 2014 Engaging in good faith efforts to collaborate and consult with tribes within the assigned Hub region. ¶

(6) Hubs must ensure all strategies, funding allocations, and service delivery approaches are equity-driven, and address the opportunity gap among the priority populations within their assigned region.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 417.728, ORS 417.827

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 417.728, ORS 417.827

ADOPT: 414-900-0030

RULE SUMMARY: OAR 414-900-0030 specifies that the Department administers all grant agreements, ensuring compliance with program guidelines and fiscal oversight. The proposed rule reinforces the Governance Council's exclusive authority over Hub investments and outlines enforcement measures for noncompliance, including corrective actions or funding reductions. Hubs may use additional funding sources, but Department funds must be allocated in alignment with regional priorities.

CHANGES TO RULE:

414-900-0030

Administration

(1) The Department shall administer grants that contribute to building the Early Learning Hub system. The system may not include more than 16 Early Learning Hubs under ORS 417.827. ¶

(2) The Department shall administer and manage Grant Agreements with the grant recipients and provide fiscal and program guidelines. In most cases a Grant Agreement will be executed with the Hub's Backbone Entity. A Hub that has demonstrated the ability to provide stable organizational and operational structures to the satisfaction of the Department will execute the Grant Agreement without a Backbone Entity. In all cases, the Governance Council shall provide oversight and authority of investments and has the authority to approve contracts and/or agreements under ORS 417.827. ¶

(3) Grant recipients must comply with the terms and conditions of the Grant Agreement including, but not limited to, cooperating with the Department's program monitoring, technical assistance, program evaluations, and reporting requirements. ¶

(4) The Department may conduct a review to determine if any party is out of compliance with the terms of the Grant Agreement. ¶

(a) The Department may require technical assistance, planning meetings or other remedial processes as needed to ensure compliance with the terms of the Grant Agreement. ¶

(b) The Department may issue a notice of noncompliance outlining concerns and next steps. / ¶

(c) The Department may request a corrective action plan, which must be submitted to the Early Learning Hub Contract Administrator(s) within the timeframe outlined in the corrective action plan. The Department must review the plan and issue a decision of approval or disapproval. / ¶

(A) Parties that do not complete corrective actions or correct noncompliance may be subject to enforcement measures, including but not limited to: additional reporting requirements, conditions on funding, or withholding funds, in whole or in part, by the Department. ¶

(B) The Department must provide notice to all parties including the Backbone Entity, Hub Director, and Governance Council, of remedial action that will terminate or reduce eligibility for Hub funding within the timeframe outlined in the Grant Agreement. Grantees may use additional funds from other sources to carry out the Hub functions outlined in 414-900-0015. Grantees must ensure that Hubs invest and allocate Department-provided funds primarily to serve the region's priority population, in accordance with the terms of the Grant Agreement. In addition, Hubs may serve all children aged prenatal to six years old, as resources allow. Department-provided funds must be utilized in a cost-efficient manner while maintaining quality, as determined by the Governance Council.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 417.728, ORS 417.827

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 417.728, ORS 417.827

ADOPT: 414-900-0100

RULE SUMMARY: OAR 414-900-0100 defines backbone entities as administrative and fiscal support providers while clarifying their role in funding decisions. The proposed rule establishes requirements for financial transparency, auditing compliance, and fiscal independence from Department funding. Caps administrative overhead costs and mandates conflict-of-interest policies.

CHANGES TO RULE:

414-900-0100

Backbone Entity Structure

(1) A Backbone Entity is an entity that provides operational and fiscal support to the regional Early Learning Hub. A Hub that has demonstrated the ability to provide stable organizational and operational structures to the satisfaction of the Department may provide its own operational and fiscal support. Both Hubs that provide their own operational and fiscal support without a Backbone Entity, and Hubs that use a Backbone Entity to provide operational and fiscal support, must: ¶

(a) Provide fiscal and operational management to ensure accountability and compliance with Department standards as outlined in the Grant Agreement. ¶

(b) Maintain financial systems that meet state and federal auditing standards. ¶

(c) Ensure that the Governance Council has access to financial reports necessary to make decisions ¶

(d) Conduct timely execution of fiscal documents needed to disburse funds. ¶

(e) Maintain transparency in all processes, including grantmaking and contracting, for any investment from the Department distributed to the entity for the operation and administration of the Hub. ¶

(f) Be fiscally sound. A backbone entity should be an entity with the ability to fiscally support its core operations without funding from the Department to operate and administer Hub functions. ¶

(g) Adhere to a "not to exceed" amount for administrative overhead costs set by the Department. ¶

(h) Provide support for Hub functions for the full geographic region of the Hub including the priority population, even if not the same as the backbone entity's general or usual service region. ¶

(i) Establish and enforce conflict-of-interest policies for all staff, community partners, and any sub-grantees designed to prevent undue influence in funding or operational decisions. ¶

(2) Backbone Entities may make use of Department funds for staffing; however, such funding must be proportional to the funded staff's work on Hub functions and priorities. The Department will review and must approve funding models that divide staffing costs between Hub administration and other functions. ¶

(3) If the Department determines that the Grant Agreement with the backbone entity will be terminated, whether voluntarily or involuntarily, it will issue a competitive Request for Application (RFA) within the affected Hub region. All applicants must fulfill the requirements of ORS 417.827 and other terms as outlined in the published Request for Application.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 417.728, ORS 417.827

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 417.728, ORS 417.827

ADOPT: 414-900-0110

RULE SUMMARY: OAR 414-900-0110 expands Governance Council membership to include health, education, human services, housing, business, parent/caregiver and Tribal representatives. The proposed rule formalizes Governance Councils' authority over investments, requiring bylaws that ensure transparency, dispute resolution, and public engagement. Introduces a process for Governance Councils to request a transition of the backbone entity if confidence is lost.

CHANGES TO RULE:

414-900-0110

Early Learning Hub Governance Structure

(1) Each Hub must have a Governance Council. The Governance Council is the autonomous body responsible for directing the administration of the Grant Agreement for the Early Learning Hub. The Governance Council is the decision-making body for the investments of Early Learning Hub funds. If the Hub utilizes a backbone entity for operational and organizational support, the Hub must do so as defined in 414-900-0100. The backbone entity may not make decisions regarding the investments of Early Learning Hub funds. ¶

(a) Governance Councils must engage in good-faith efforts to include representatives from the following sectors: ¶

¶

(A) Health services. ¶

(B) Early learning and care services. ¶

(C) K-12 public education. ¶

(D) Human services. ¶

(E) Housing services. ¶

(F) Higher education and workforce development. ¶

(G) Business services. ¶

(b) Governance Councils must include parent or caregiver representative. ¶

(c) For Grantees with a federally recognized Tribe (or Tribes) within their assigned region, a Governance Council position must be made available for a member of each Tribe in the region. Hubs must regularly offer each Tribe the opportunity for participation in the case of a vacant position for the Tribe. ¶

(d) If the Hub Director is unable to convene all sectors and members for Governance Council membership, the Hub Director(s) must contact the Department for support. ¶

(2) A Governance Council is the entity within the Hub structure that oversees the functions of the Hub. The Governance Council must: ¶

(a) Include at a minimum a chair and, optionally a co-chair, who will be responsible for duties as outlined in the Grant Agreement. ¶

(b) Approve strategic plans, budgets, and funding priorities. ¶

(c) Develop and adopt bylaws to govern the operation of the Hub. ¶

(3) The Governance Council shall be governed by a set of bylaws. ¶

(a) The Governance Council must develop and adopt bylaws within 90 days of its establishment or restructuring. ¶

(b) The bylaws must include, but are not limited to: ¶

(A) A clear statement of the Governance Council's purpose and authority. ¶

(B) Membership composition, including sector representation requirements, term limits, and appointment or election procedures. ¶

(C) Roles and responsibilities of officers, committees, and members. ¶

(D) Procedures for conducting meetings, including frequency, quorum requirements, decision-making processes, and conflict resolution methods. ¶

(E) A conflict of interest policy, including provisions for identifying, disclosing, and addressing potential conflicts. ¶

(F) Policies for public engagement and transparency, including mechanisms for community member engagement and dissemination of Council decisions. ¶

(G) A process for amending the bylaws. ¶

(H) Procedures for conflict mediation and resolution with the backbone entity, and ¶

(I) Procedures for dissolution or transition of the Council, if necessary. ¶

(4) Meeting minutes from Governance Council meetings must be made available to the public on a website maintained by the Hub. ¶

(5) The Governance Council must, in accordance with the procedures in its bylaws and following a vote, notify the Department if it has lost confidence in the Backbone Entity's ability to perform any or all of its functions in accordance with these rules. ¶

(a) If the Governance Council votes to notify the Department of its desire to change the backbone entity for the

Hub, the Governance Council must contact the Early Learning Hub Contract Administrator(s) for assistance and support in carrying out the backbone entity transition process. ¶

(b) Such notification must specify the basis for the lack of confidence, including specific lack of confidence in the Hub Director or specific personnel. Such notification may also recommend desired changes to address or remedy the lack of confidence.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 417.728, ORS 417.827

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 417.728, ORS 417.827

ADOPT: 414-900-0500

RULE SUMMARY: OAR 414-900-0500 requires Hubs to use Department-approved data collection tools to ensure accuracy and consistency. The proposed rule mandates that data be used for strategic planning, continuous improvement, and measuring child and family outcomes. Strengthens confidentiality protections for family and child-level data in compliance with applicable regulations.

CHANGES TO RULE:

414-900-0500

Data Collection and Reporting

Early Learning Hubs must collect and assess data in accordance with the standards established by the Department, as outlined in the Grant Agreement, and Hubs must ensure the accuracy, reliability, and validity of the data. ¶

(1) Data collection must be conducted using approved tools and systems that align with the requirements specified in the Hub Grant Agreement. The Department shall provide a template for data reporting to grant recipients. ¶

(2) Hubs must safeguard the confidentiality of family and child-level data compiled or submitted to the Department in accordance with all applicable laws, regulations, policies, procedures, and guidance. ¶

(3) Hubs must utilize data for reporting, analysis, and decision-making to enhance system effectiveness and drive outcomes for children and families as outlined in Oregon Administrative Rule, 414-900-0015.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 417.728, ORS 417.827

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 417.728, ORS 417.827

ADOPT: 414-900-0510

RULE SUMMARY: OAR 414-900-0510 clarifies that KPI funding must enhance early learning and K-12 alignment, support family engagement, and improve school readiness for priority populations. The rule proposal reinforces financial accountability by mandating that KPI funds be tracked separately and used solely for designated program purposes.

CHANGES TO RULE:

414-900-0510

Administration of Early Learning Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation Program

The Early Learning Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation Program (KPI) is established by ORS 336.101. KPI funds are invested by Early Learning Hubs to support access to and continuity of services that provide supportive transitions for families, particularly priority populations and priority geographic areas. Through innovative programming and partnerships, Early Learning Hubs must utilize KPI funding to coordinate regional efforts that address disparities and promote equity. ¶

(1) Hubs must invest KPI funding to increase the connection between early learning, K-12, and other regional sectors to support a successful transition into kindergarten. KPI funding must be used to: ¶

(a) Invest in innovative or promising strategies for early learning, K-12, and other sectors across the state and build a body of evidence that Oregon can use to create stronger alignment between its early learning and K-12 education systems. ¶

(b) Engage families of children who are prenatal through five years of age in being partners in the learning and development of their children. Provide opportunities for families to connect with early learning, school, district and community resources. ¶

(c) Promote community and school partnerships and innovations that result in improvements in family and children's well-being and success in school including access to early literacy resources and programs ¶

(2) As recipients of KPI funds, Hubs must report KPI data to the Department and evaluating agencies as outlined in the Grant Agreement. The report must include: ¶

(a) Outputs or activities related to implementation of the early learning and K-12 partnership strategy. ¶

(b) Impact of outputs or activities on children and their families. ¶

(c) Impact of outputs or activities on the attitudes, behaviors, or instructional practices of early childhood educators and kindergarten teachers. ¶

(3) Funds received for the administration of KPI must be separately accounted for and may be used only to provide funding for the purposes described in the Grant Agreement.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 417.728, ORS 336.101, ORS 336.104

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 417.728, ORS 417.827, ORS 336.101, ORS 336.104