

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION – TOPIC SUMMARY**

**Topic:** Early Learning Division Update

**Date:** June 25, 2015

**Staff/Office:** David Mandell, ELD

**Action Requested:**  Informational Only     Adoption     Adoption/Consent Agenda

**ISSUE BEFORE THE BOARD:**

Early Learning Division Update

**BACKGROUND:**

The Early Learning Division’s mission is to support Oregon’s young children and families to learn and thrive. When the Division was created almost two years ago it brought together early learning programs including Healthy Families Oregon (home visiting), Oregon Pre-Kindergarten/Head Start, and Relief Nurseries as well as the Office of Child Care which oversees child care licensing and compliance.

In addition to this programmatic and regulatory oversight, the Division manages a number of initiatives designed to meet the mission of the organization and the three primary goals of the early learning system: 1) children ready to succeed in kindergarten 2) healthy, stable and attached families and 3) coordinated and aligned family-centric systems.

One of the primary strategies for meeting these goals is the creation of Early Learning Hubs. Hubs are designed to make supports and services more available, more accessible, and more effective for children and families, particularly those who are historically overrepresented in the opportunity gap and underrepresented in services. There will be 16 Early Learning Hubs across the state.