

Oregon's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) Revision

Oregon's Revised QRIS will:

- Ensure inclusion of diversity of cultures, communities of color, ethnicities, languages and abilities using the Oregon Equity Lens
- Be comprehensive but not cumbersome for providers
- Be sustainable and prioritize resources to increase access to quality care for children, families and communities furthest from opportunity
- Increase professionalism of the Early Learning field by encouraging continuous quality improvement across all levels of the system (system, workforce, program)
- Be efficient, effective and build upon existing systems
- Build upon the rich knowledge and expertise of Oregon's families and communities to support families as they choose child care
- Provide objective and understandable standards in accessible formats
- Be understood and valued by all stakeholders

Vision:

All of Oregon's children will have access to quality care and education that promotes each child's development, school readiness, and continued success in academics and life.

Mission:

Oregon's Quality Rating and Improvement System supports and incentivizes continuous quality improvements for care and education programs and their workforce. The QRIS partners with families and communities to highlight the importance of early learning experiences and to connect families and quality learning programs. Investments and resources are prioritized to increase access to quality care for children, families, and communities furthest from opportunity.

The revision process will:

Be transparent and inclusive

The inclusive process means that all perspectives will be sought after and included: parents, providers, and system partners, with intentional inclusion of individuals from diverse communities including communities of color, communities with high rates of poverty, individuals who speak diverse languages, rural communities, multiple cultural and ethnic backgrounds, persons with disabilities.

The revision process will ensure transparency by communicating time lines, points of input, decisions and implementations plan in a timely manner.

Partners will come to the table with the intention of creating a system that is best for everyone and be willing to work for true collaboration.

Recognize and value all stakeholders

The review process will keep children and families at the forefront of decisions. Providers, programs, the workforce, and partners will be valued stakeholders.

Be data driven and vision focused

The revision process will use multiple data sources including evaluation data, input from the early learning field, authentic community engagement, national TA and best practice to create a principle based, mission driven revised system. Decisions will be made to ensure child furthest from opportunity are priority for investments, resources, and access.

Explicitly focus on equity and reflecting diversity of cultures, communities of color, ethnicities, languages and abilities

The revision process will challenge institutionalized bias and ensure that the QRIS partners reflect and include children and families from diverse backgrounds. The revision process will also drive the professional development system to build out deeper supports for providers from diverse backgrounds, ensuring that training necessary for quality improvement and to advance levels on QRIS is available in English, Spanish, Russian, Vietnamese, Chinese, and other languages as resources allow.

The following tension points are acknowledged:

- Focus on early learning *and* inclusion of school age programs.
- Importance of high quality early childhood experiences *and* the subjective nature of "quality."
- Inclusion of all children *and* priority of children furthest from opportunity.
- Scope of involvement of licensed programs *and* increasing focus on full continuum of care.
- Goal of school readiness *and* importance of whole child.
- Desire to provide information to/educate families *and* partner with them as experts and decision makers.
- Higher rewards *and* higher stakes.
- Needs of rural communities *and* larger populations of children in the I-5 Corridor



QRIS Revision Timeline Summary

Purpose statement:

Capitalize on current Race To the Top Early Learning Challenge funding to revise the current QRIS to be a more effective, sustainable system with full implementation scheduled for Spring, 2017. This document was created to be a working draft of the timeline for revisions. As adjustments are made or dates become more specific, details will be added. Other early learning system changes are added in italics to give more context to the QRIS revisions.

Estimated timeline for revisions:

Fall 2015

- QRIS Revision timeline created
- *HB2015 Employment Related Day Care ERDC changes go into effect*
- *Head start expansion of Preschool Promise*

December 2015

- Themes for solution focused community engagement identified
- QRIS Revision timeline distributed

January 2016

- Dates for community engagement opportunities set; will use equity lens and guiding principles to ensure wide engagement
- Quality Advisory Board created
- Quality Improvement Specialist input survey distributed

February – May 2016

- Solution focused community engagement sessions across the state
- Initial validation study findings shared

April – June 2016

- Revision work groups meet to draft revisions to:
 - Process
 - Incentives
 - Consumer Education
 - Supports
 - Rating and Monitoring
 - Standards
- Branding work completed
- *Tiered reimbursement rollout*

June – September 2016

- Revisions are shared with the field for input

September – December 2016

- Final validation study findings shared
- Final revisions are created
- Implementation and transition plan created
- Early Learning Information System (ELIS) goes live
- *Preschool Promise rolls out in community placements*
- *Monitoring of licensed exempt programs begins*

January – June 2017

- Implementation phase in begins
- Ongoing feedback loops implemented