



Early Learning System Initiative

What Is ELSI?

Early Learning System Initiative (ELSI) is a state-wide center developed in 2021 through an agreement between Oregon State University (OSU) and the Oregon Department of Education Early Learning Division (ELD) to increase early access to high-quality, professional learning opportunities and technical assistance for the early education workforce in Oregon.

ELSI's Purpose

ELSI works alongside partners to support, strengthen, and expand upon existing professional learning opportunities to meet the diverse needs and assets of Oregon's early education workforce.

The center aims to respectfully, effectively, and equitably support early education professionals who care for and educate children from historically marginalized populations. ELSI uses a cultural and linguistically responsive approach and is committed to centering anti-racism, equity, and inclusion in all aspects of our work.

ELSI has 4 interconnected Core Areas:

1. The Training Core

Working with our partners across the state, we are developing a training and technical assistance plan to expand access to high-quality professional development opportunities that are aligned with early educator competencies. This core is creating a plan to facilitate the adoption and revision of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) early educator competencies in consultation with system stakeholders, equity leaders and early educators. New trainings will be developed that strengthen and align with what already exists in Oregon, as well as the newly adopted NAEYC early educator competencies, and that address gaps in training needs.

2. The Coaching Core

ELSI is working with partners to develop two primary initiatives to support Oregon coaching activities:

Mentor Coaching Framework

This core has developed, and is now implementing, a Mentor Coaching Framework, designed to support Preschool Promise (PSP) and Oregon Pre-K (OPK) coaches. This continuously adapted framework supports ongoing professional development for early childhood coaches in their work to strengthen early childhood programs. Mentor Coaches with ELSI will support ongoing professional development for Preschool Promise and OPK coaches across the state to support continuous quality improvement.

Coaching Competencies

Coaching competencies and a subsequent tiered coaching certification system are also being developed for the state of Oregon in partnership with the ELD and aligned with ELD's coaching system goals.

3. The Partnership Core

Partnership and collaboration are woven throughout the fabric of ELSI. We engage with multiple organizations across Oregon on an ongoing basis to inform the development of the initiative's scope, structure, roles and responsibilities, and its vision and values. These partnerships ensure that ELSI remains a respectful and responsive resource both for our partners as well as the early education workforce. We continually invite feedback on our work and amplify and elevate existing workforce supports!

4. The Data and Evaluation Core

Our team is creating a systematic yet agile evaluation and measurement plan to learn what is working and for whom to inform continuous improvement of the center's activities and goals.

