Early Learning System Initiative

Hallie E. Ford Center for Healthy Children and Families
Oregon State University

**Purpose:** To work alongside partners to strengthen and expand upon existing professional learning opportunities to meet the diverse needs and assets of Oregon’s early educator workforce. The center aims to respectfully, effectively, and equitably support early education professionals who care for and educate children from historically marginalized populations.

**Four related objectives:** relationship development, developing a Mentor Coaching Framework, supporting NAEYC early educator competencies through professional development trainings, and data analysis & evaluation.

**Relationship development.** Work with partners on an ongoing basis to inform the development of the center’s scope, structure, roles and responsibilities, and values. This process will start with meetings to listen and learning from partners and stakeholders to inform the development of the center, to coordinate efforts, and to effectively leverage all available resources.

**Mentor Coaching Framework.** Work with partners to develop and refine a Mentor Coaching Framework to support early childhood coaches in their work to strengthen early childhood programs with a focus on anti-racism, equity, diversity, and inclusion. The model will be continually adapted to meet the needs of diverse settings and for cultural and linguistic responsiveness. The Mentor Coaching Framework will be integrated with NAEYC competencies and training efforts.

Mentor Coaches with ELSI will support ongoing professional development for Preschool Promise and OPK coaches across the state to support continuous quality improvement.

**Supporting early educator competencies through professional development.** Create a plan to facilitate the adoption of the NAEYC early educator competencies and other gaps in training needs in consultation with system stakeholders, equity leaders, and early educators.

Work with partners to develop a culturally and linguistically responsive professional development training and technical assistance plan to expand access to high-quality professional development opportunities that are aligned with newly-adopted NAEYC early educator competencies and address gaps in training needs. In response to feedback from the early childhood workforce, new trainings will be developed that strengthen and align with those that already exist in Oregon.

**Data analysis & evaluation.** Create 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.

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*We’d love to hear from you.* contact us at: els@oregonstate.edu