

2017



OREGON PRESCHOOL LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Executive Summary

PREPARED FOR THE OREGON STATE LEGISLATURE
BY THE EARLY LEARNING DIVISION



Oregon Preschool Legislative Report

2016-2017

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ORS 329.172 (HB 3380), ORS 329.165 and 417.796 requires the Early Learning Division to report to the Legislative Assembly on various components of the Preschool Promise program and the Oregon Prekindergarten program. The Early Learning Division submits its *Oregon Preschool Legislative Report, 2016-2017* in fulfillment of the reporting requirements.

The report describes Oregon’s publicly funded preschool programs, Oregon Prekindergarten (OPK) and the 2016 implementation of Preschool Promise. Key highlights of the report describe costs, funding, enrollment, and children and families served by OPK and Preschool Promise.

Additionally, we address program requirements, the positive impacts OPK teachers and staff have on quality early learning experiences for children, as well as child progress and outcomes. The report also details Preschool Promise program requirements, the roles and responsibilities of Oregon’s Early Learning Hubs, funding models for Hubs and providers, and provides a comprehensive review of program implementation successes and challenges for the Preschool Promise program.

Oregon faces long-term challenges meeting the statutory goal of full funding for all eligible families. Oregon’s publicly funded Oregon Prekindergarten and Preschool Promise programs combined with federal funds for Head Start, provides access for six out of ten Oregon eligible families in OPK and 1,300 eligible children through Preschool Promise. While Preschool Promise has greatly expanded Oregon’s ability to provide high-quality preschool opportunities in this state, there remain more than 21,000 three- and four-year olds from low-income families who have neither access to Preschool Promise or OPK.

The reports also addresses the critical role Oregon’s early learning workforce plays in providing quality early learning experiences for Oregon children and families. It covers salaries, education levels and turnover rates for the workforce and describes the significant and systemic challenges posed by low levels of compensation in the field of early childhood.

In addition to providing access to quality comprehensive early learning services that meet varying needs of children and families, Oregon is at the precipice of addressing the needs of its early learning workforce to support culturally and linguistically relevant classroom environments, curricula and instruction; opportunities for professional development, educational attainment, and challenges presented by low wages and associated high turnover rates.

The Early Learning Council and Early Learning Division is committed to partner with policymakers, early learning providers and stakeholders to build upon successes and the investments made over

the last several years to expand access and improve the quality of early learning for Oregon’s most vulnerable children.

The Oregon Preschool Legislative Report, 2016-2017, was prepared by the Oregon Department of Education, Early Learning Division. Copies of the full report may be obtained by contacting the Early Learning Division at (503) 378-2792 or karol.collymore@state.or.us. The report may be downloaded from the Early Learning Division website at oregonearlylearning.com.