



KATE BROWN
Governor

December 23, 2019

Colt Gill
Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction
Oregon Department of Education
Salem, OR, 97301

Miriam Calderon
Early Learning System Director
Oregon Early Learning Division
Salem, OR, 97301

Dear Deputy Superintendent Gill and Director Calderon:

The State of Oregon is committed to supporting communities, school districts, educators and education providers to implement the Student Success Act. This support is paired with a fundamental responsibility to ensure public accountability for tax dollars invested in improving outcomes for our historically underserved children.

Oregon's children and families deserve clear, common standards of quality and expectations for care when utilizing publicly funded preschool programs, regardless of setting. This is in keeping with the longstanding policy of the State of Oregon to invest in high-quality early childhood education to ensure the long-term educational, health and economic outcomes for all Oregonians.

Pursuant to my authority as Superintendent of Public Instruction, and pursuant to my supervisory authority over the provision of early childhood education in school districts under ORS 329.235, it is my expectation that prekindergarten programs funded under the Student Investment Account (SIA) or other state funding sources conform to established criteria for high-quality early childhood learning and development. This established criteria reflected in federal and state preschool programs has been articulated in statute by the Oregon Legislature under ORS 329.195 and 329.172, and by administrative rule under OAR 414-460-0020 and 414-470-0040.

I am hereby directing the Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction and Oregon Department of Education (ODE), in coordination with the Early Learning System Director, to establish a policy to apply these criteria to the review and approval of school district grant applications pertaining to implementing prekindergarten programs with SIA funds and commencing on or after July 1, 2020.

It is my expectation that this action will be executed no later than January 31, 2020.

Sincerely,

Governor Kate Brown

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