

A GUIDE TO RESOURCES FOR DEVELOPING SCHOOL READINESS GOALS

This resource provides information on State Early Learning Standards (ELS) as well as state Quality Rating Improvement Systems (QRIS) and kindergarten readiness assessments. A comprehensive, high-quality system of services for young children should be based on an integrated, coherent framework where curriculum and assessment are aligned with early learning standards, with the goal of improving children's readiness for success in school.

Head Start programs are required to establish goals for enhancing school readiness of children, including school readiness goals that are aligned with the Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework, and State Early Learning Standards as appropriate (Head Start Act, 2007).

This resource is designed to provide programs with direct access to their state's ELS as well as information on other tools for programs to improve children's readiness for kindergarten. Programs can use this information to review alignments between state standards and their program's curriculum and assessment.

Early Learning Standards

Early Learning Standards (ELS) describe expectations for the learning and development of young children (NAEYC/ NAECS-SDE, 2002). ELS were developed to help improve instruction and programming as well as children's readiness for school (Scott-Little, 2005). A wide range of stakeholders representing early education, K-3 and families were involved in the development of ELS. ELS are continuously reviewed and revised to reflect up-to-date knowledge and research on desired outcomes for young children.

Dual Language Learners (DLL) Standards

For further information on DLL standards please see the Dual Language Learners in State Early Learning Guidelines and Standards document from the National Center on Cultural and Linguistic Responsiveness. This resource provides a summary of how DLLs are represented in state early care and education guidelines and standards. http://eclkc.ohs.acf. hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/cultural-linguistic/center/state-guidelines/dll_guidelines.html

Quality Rating Improvement Systems (QRIS)

A quality rating and improvement system (QRIS) is a systemic approach to assess, improve, and communicate the level of quality in early and school-age care and education programs. QRIS include standards, accountability measures, program and practitioner outreach and support, financing incentives and parent/consumer education efforts (NCCIC, 2010). This guide indicates whether or not a state has a quality improvement system in place.

Kindergarten Readiness Assessment

Some states also have kindergarten readiness assessments. Kindergarten readiness assessments can be used by programs to assess what children know, and determine what skills they are ready to learn next to ensure children are successful in school (Meisels, 1998). This is another resource in developing school readiness goals. In this guide, we list whether or not a state has kindergarten readiness assessments.

Note: There are frequent revisions and updates to these standards and assessments. In addition to these state-level guidelines, Head Start programs will need to work with their local school districts to understand community expectations for school entry.



Resources

Early Learning and Development Standards Resources. http://www.earlylearningguidelines-standards.org/

Meisels, S. (1998). *Assessing readiness* (CIERA Report No. 3-002). Retrieved from Center for the Improvement of Early Reading Achievement website: www.ciera.org/library/reports/inquiry-3/3-002/3-002.pdf

National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), & National Association of Early Childhood Specialists in State Departments of Education (NAECS-SDE). (2002). Early learning standards: Creating the conditions for success. A joint position statement. Retrieved from www.naeyc.org/files/naeyc/file/positions/position_statement.pdf

National Center for Cultural and Linguistic Responsiveness (March 2012) *Dual language learners in state early learning guidelines and standards*. Retrieved from http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/cultural-linguistic/center/state-guidelines/dll_guidelines.html

National Child Care Information and Technical Assistance Center (2009). NCCIC: QRIS definition and statewide system Retrieved from http://www.dataqualitycampaign.org/files/4_NCCIC_QRIS.pdf

Scott-Little, C. (2011, February). Aligning state standards, the Head Start CDEL Framework, and our work with children and families. Presented at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Head Start Summit: On the Road to School Readiness, Baltimore, MD. Retrieved from http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/Head%20Start%20Program/Initiatives/ohs_summit_2011/Catherine_Scott-Little_OHS_Summit_Feb2011.pdf

Scott-Little, C., Kagan, S. L., & Frelow, V. S. (2005). *Inside the content: The breadth and depth of early learning standards*. Retrieved from University of North Carolina at Greensboro www.serve.org/uploads/publications/insidecontentfr.pdf

Scott-Little, C., Kagan, S. L., Frelow, V. S., & Reid, J. (2008). *Inside the content of infant-toddler early learning guidelines:* Results from analyses, issues to consider and recommendations. Retrieved from University of North Carolina at Greensboro: www.uncg.edu/hdf/facultystaff/ScottLittle/FINAL%20FULL%20REPORT%20-%202.28.08.pdf

Toolkit: Quality Rating Improvement Systems. Retrieved from http://www.wkkflearninglabs.org/index.php/newtool/qris3/

State-Level Early Learning Documents (last updated 6/2012)

STATE/U.S. TERRITORY	AGES	EARLY LEARNING STANDARDS OR BENCHMARKS	QRIS	K- READINESS ASSESSMENT
Alabama	Birth to 5	Alabama Early Learning Guidelines Birth to 5 http://dhr.alabama.gov/large_docs/AELG.pdf	No	Yes
Alaska	Birth to 5	State of Alaska Early Learning Guidelines www.eed.state.ak.us/publications/EarlyLearningGuidelines.pdf	No	Yes
Arizona	3-5 yrs	Arizona Department of Education Early Learning Standards http://www.azed.gov/wp-content/uploads/PDF/ EarlyLearningStandards.pdf	Pilot	Yes
Arkansas	Birth to 3	Arkansas Framework for Infant and Toddler Care www.ark.org/childcare/general/infantframework.pdf	Yes	Yes
	3-5 yrs	Arkansas Early Childhood Education Framework www.state.ar.us/childcare/programsupport/pdf/aeceframwork.pdf		
California	Birth to 3	California Infant/Toddler Learning and Development Foundations www.cde.ca.gov/sp/cd/re/documents/itfoundations2009.pdf	No	No
	3-5 yrs	California Preschool Learning Foundations www.cde.ca.gov/sp/cd/re/documents/preschoollf.pdf		
Colorado	3-5 yrs	Colorado P-12 Academic Standards www.cde.state.co.us/cpp/qualitystandards.htm	Yes	Yes
Connecticut	Birth to 3	Connecticut's Guidelines for the Development of Early Learning for Infants and Toddlers: http://www.ct.gov/dss/lib/dss/dss_early_learning_guidelines.pdf	No	Yes
	3-5 yrs	The Connecticut Preschool Curriculum Framework www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/PDF/DEPS/Early/Preschool_framework.pdf		
Delaware	Birth to 3	Delaware Early Learning Foundations: Infant/Toddler http://www.doe.k12.de.us/infosuites/students_family/earlychildhood/files/InfTodELFfinalJul2010.pdf	Yes	No
	3-5 yrs	Delaware Early Learning Foundations for School Success http://www.doe.k12.de.us/infosuites/students_family/earlychildhood/files/Early%20Learning%20Foundations%20Revised.pdf		
District of Columbia	Birth to 3	District of Columbia Early Learning Standards for Infants and Toddlers http://osse.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/osse/publication/attachments/OSSE_Infants_v4_0.pdf	Yes	No
	3-5 yrs	Early Learning Standards for Children Entering Kindergarten in the District of Columbia http://osse.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/osse/publication/attachments/OSSE_PreKindergarten_v4_0.pdf		
Florida	Birth to 5	Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards: Birth to Five http://www.floridaearlylearning.com/Documents/Policy-Forms/Form_OEL-SR_30_Florida_Early_Learning_and_Developmental_Standards_091412.pdf	No	Yes
Georgia	Birth to 3	Georgia Early Learning Standards http://decal.ga.gov/documents/attachments/GELSComplete608.pdf	Yes	Yes
	3-5 yrs	Georgia's PreK Program Content Standards http://decal.ga.gov/documents/attachments/Content_Standards_Full. pdf		
Hawaii	4-yr-olds	Hawaii Preschool Content Standards http://www.goodbeginnings.org/images/uploads/Preschool_ Standards_2006.pdf	Yes	Yes

STATE/U.S. TERRITORY	AGES	EARLY LEARNING STANDARDS OR BENCHMARKS	QRIS	K- READINESS ASSESSMENT
Idaho	Birth to 5	Idaho Early Learning Guidelines www.healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/Portals/0/Children/IELeGuidelines/ Idaho_Early_Learning_eGuidelines.htm	Yes	Yes
Illinois	Birth to 3	Illinois Birth to Three Program Standards http://isbe.net/earlychi/pdf/birth_three_standards.pdf	Yes	No
	3-5 yrs	Illinois Early Learning Standards www.isbe.state.il.us/earlychi/pdf/early_learning_standards.pdf		
Indiana	Birth to 5	Foundations to the Indiana Academic Standards for Birth to Age 5 http://www.doe.in.gov/sites/default/files/curriculum/indianafoundations-february-2012.pdf	Yes	No
lowa	Birth to 5	lowa Early Learning Standards Birth to Five http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/docs/IELS_2-20-006.pdf	Yes	Yes
Kansas	Birth to 5	Kansas Early Learning www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=3321	Yes	Yes
Kentucky	Birth to 5	Building a Strong Foundation for School Success – Kentucky's Early Childhood Standards http://kidsnow.ky.gov/Improving-Early-Care/Documents/Kentucky%20Early%20Childhood%20Standards.pdf	Yes	No
Louisiana	Birth to 3	Louisiana Early Learning Guidelines and Program Standards Birth through Three www.dss.state.la.us/assets/docs/searchable/OFS/LAEarlyLearningGuide.pdf	Yes	Yes
	3-5 yrs	Louisiana Standards for Programs Serving Four-Year-Old Children www.louisianaschools.net/lde/uploads/17057.pdf		
Maine	Birth to 3	Supporting Maine's Infants and Toddlers: Guidelines for Learning and Development www.maine.gov/education/fouryearold/documents/infantsandtoddlersguidelines.pdf	Yes	Yes
	3-5 yrs	State of Maine Early Childhood Learning Guidelines www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/ec/occhs/learning.pdf		
Maryland	Birth to 3	Healthy Beginnings: Supporting Development and Learning from Birth through Three Years of Age http://cte.jhu.edu/onlinecourses/HealthyBeginnings/HBFINAL.pdf	Yes	Yes
	3-5 yrs	Maryland Model for School Readiness (MMSR): Framework and Standards for Prekindergarten http://mdk12.org/instruction/ensure/MMSR/MMSRpkFrameworkAndStandards.pdf		
Massachusetts	Birth to 3	Massachusetts Early Learning Guidelines for Infants and Toddlers www.eec.state.ma.us/docs1/Workforce_Dev/Layout.pdf	Pilot	No
	3-5 yrs	Guidelines for Preschool Learning Experiences www.fcsn.org/pti/topics/earlychildhood/preschool_learning_eec.pdf		

STATE/U.S. TERRITORY	AGES	EARLY LEARNING STANDARDS OR BENCHMARKS	QRIS	K- READINESS ASSESSMENT
Michigan	Birth to 3	Early Childhood Standards of Quality for Infant and Toddler Programs www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/ECSQ-IT_Final_180649_7.pdf	No	No
	3-5 yrs	Early Childhood Standards of Quality for Prekindergarten www.michigan.gov/documents/Early_Childhood_Standards_of_Quality_160470_7.PDF		
Minnesota	Birth to 3	Early Childhood Indicators of Progress: Minnesota's Early Learning Guidelines for Birth to Three https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Legacy/DHS-4438-ENG	Pilot	Yes
	3-5 yrs	Early Childhood Indicators of Progress: Minnesota's Early Learning Standards http://www.isd300.k12.mn.us/ECFE/test/ECIPs/default.aspx		
Mississippi	Birth to 3	Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines for Infants and Toddlers http://msucares.com/childcare/elg/ms_it_elgs.pdf	Yes	No
	3-5 yrs	Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines for Four Year Old Children http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/docs/curriculum-and-instructions-library/4-year-old-guidelines.pdf?sfvrsn=2		
Missouri	3-5 yrs	Missouri Early Learning Standards http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/fedprog/earlychild/PreK_Standards/ Index.html	Pilot	No
Montana	Birth to 3	Montana's Early Learning Guidelines for Infants and Toddlers www.mtecp.org/pdfs/infanttoddlerelgs.pdf	Yes	No
	3-5 yrs	Montana's Early Learning Guidelines www.dphhs.mt.gov/hcsd/childcare/documents/mtelgs_001.pdf		
Nebraska	Birth to 3	Nebraska Early Learning Guidelines for Ages Birth to Three http://www.education.ne.gov/OEC/pubs/ELG/B_3_English.pdf	Yes	Yes
	3-5 yrs	Nebraska Early Learning Guidelines for Ages 3-5 http://www.education.ne.gov/OEC/pubs/ELG/3_5_English.pdf		
Nevada	Birth to 3	Nevada Infant and Toddler Early Learning Guidelines Draft Copy http://www.nevadaregistry.org/fb_files/ InfantToddlerGuidelinesDRAFTAugust2011.pdf	Pilot	No
	3-5 yrs	Nevada Pre-Kindergarten Standards http://doe.nv.gov/Standards/Pre-K/Pre-K_Standards.pdf		
New Hampshire	Birth to 5	New Hampshire Early Learning Guidelines www.dhhs.state.nh.us/dcyf/cdb/documents/earlylearningguidelines. pdf	Yes	No
New Jersey	3-5 yrs	Preschool Teaching and Learning Expectations www.state.nj.us/education/ece/archives/code/expectations/ expectations.pdf	No	Yes
New Mexico	Birth to 5	New Mexico Early Learning Guidelines: Birth Through Kindergarten (Draft) https://www.newmexicoprek.org/Docs/PreKMaterials2010_2011/ ELGs_Birth-Kindergarten_fullversion.pdf	Yes	Yes
New York	3-5 yrs	Preschool Planning Guide http://www.p12.nysed.gov/ciai/common_core_standards/pdfdocs/ nyslsprek.pdf	Pilot	Yes

STATE/U.S. TERRITORY	AGES	EARLY LEARNING STANDARDS OR BENCHMARKS	QRIS	READINESS ASSESSMENT
North Carolina	Birth to 3	Infant-Toddler Foundations http://ncchildcare.dhhs.state.nc.us/pdf_forms/dcd_infant_toddler_ early_foundations.pdf	Yes	Yes
	3-5 yrs	Foundations: Early Learning Standards for NC Preschoolers http://chathamkids.org/downloads/BW_condensedfoundations.pdf		
North Dakota	Birth to 3	Birth to 3. Early Learning Guidelines. www.nd.gov/dhs/info/pubs/docs/cfs/2009-08-earlylearning-birth-3. pdf	Pilot	No
	3-5 yrs	North Dakota's Early Learning Guidelines Ages Three Through Five www.nd.gov/dhs/info/pubs/docs/cfs/nd-early-learning-guidelines-forages-3-thru-5.pdf		
Ohio	Birth to 3	Ohio's Infant and Toddler Guidelines http://jfs.ohio.gov/cdc/infanttoddler.pdf	Yes	Yes
	3-5 yrs	Ohio's Early Learning Content Standards http://education.ohio.gov/GD/Templates/Pages/ODE/ODEDetail.aspx?page=3&TopicRelationID=1698&ContentID=1629&Content=116409		
Oklahoma	Birth to 3	Early Learning Guidelines for Infants, Toddlers, and Twos Ages 0 through 36 months http://www.okdhs.org/NR/rdonlyres/DCBC98D7-48B3-42C3-BEFE-C4ABE6F486AC/0/1023_OklahomaEarlyLearningGuide_occs036mo_04012011.pdf	No	Yes
	3-5 yrs	Oklahoma Early Learning Guidelines for Children Ages Three through Five http://www.cecpd.org/docs/ELG/Early%20Learning%20Guidelines.pdf		
Oregon	Birth to 5	Early Childhood Foundations www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?=1408	Yes	No
Pennsylvania	Birth to 3	Infants and Toddlers: Pennsylvania Learning Standards for Early Childhood www.pakeys.org/pages/get.aspx?page=Career_Standards	Yes	Yes
	3-5 yrs	Pre-Kindergarten: Pennsylvania Learning Standards for Early Childhood www.pakeys.org/uploadedContent/Docs/PD/Standards/Pre-Kindergarten%202010.pdf		
Rhode Island	3-5 yrs	Rhode Island Early Learning Standards www.ride.ri.gov/els/doc.asp	Yes	Yes
South Carolina	Birth to 3	South Carolina's Infant and Toddler Guidelines http://childcare.sc.gov/main/docs/SCInfantToddlerGuidelines.pdf	Yes	No
	3-5 yrs	Good Start Grow Smart South Carolina Early Learning Standards for 3, 4, and 5 year-old children. http://childcare.sc.gov/main/docs/gsgs_finalbook_022608.pdf		
South Dakota	3-5 yrs	South Dakota Early Learning Guidelines http://doe.sd.gov/contentstandards/documents/ EarlyLearningGuidelinesBook.pdf	No	No
Tennessee	Birth to 5	Early Learning Developmental Standards www.tn.gov/education/ci/earlychildhood/index.shtml	Yes	Yes

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STATE/U.S. TERRITORY	AGES	EARLY LEARNING STANDARDS OR BENCHMARKS	QRIS	K- READINESS ASSESSMENT
Texas	4-5 yrs	Revised Texas Pre-Kindergarten Guidelines www.tea.state.tx.us/index2.aspx?id=2147495508&menu_ id=2147483718	Yes	Yes
Utah	Birth to 3	Utah's Early Learning Guidelines Birth to Age Three https://jobs.utah.gov/occ/occ2/learnmore/infanttoddlergui.pdf	No	No
	4-yr-olds	Pre-Kindergarten Guidelines http://www.schools.utah.gov/CURR/preschoolkindergarten/Home/ IntroductionToPreKGuidelines.aspx		
Vermont	3-5 yrs	Vermont Early Learning Standards http://dcf.vermont.gov/sites/dcf/files/pdf/cdd/care/2006-03-29-VELS_ booklet.pdf	Yes	Yes
Virginia	Birth to 5	Milestones of Child Development http://www.earlychildhood.virginia.gov/documents/milestones.pdf	Pilot	Yes
Washington	Birth to 5	Washington State Early Learning and Development Guidelines Birth through 3rd Grade 2012 http://www.del.wa.gov/publications/development/docs/Guidelines.pdf	Pilot	No
West Virginia	Birth to 3	West Virginia Early Learning Standards Framework: Infant/Toddler http://www.wvearlychildhood.org/resources/WV_Early_Learning_Standards_Framework_Infant_Toddler.pdf	No	No
	3-5 yrs	West Virginia Early Learning Standards Framework http://www.wvdhhr.org/bcf/ece/earlycare/stateplan/07_09_ attachments/attachment_5.2_wvelsf.pdf		
Wisconsin	Birth to 5	Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards http://www.wcwcw.com/earlychildhood/wmels.html	In dev	No
Wyoming	Birth to 3	Early Learning Guidelines http://www.wyqualitycounts.org/Media.aspx?Mediald=306	No	No
	3-5 yrs	Wyoming Early Childhood Readiness Standards http://edu.wyoming.gov/Libraries/Standards/Standards_2003_Early_ Childhood_Readiness.sflb.ashx		
Midway Atoll Islands		Information forthcoming		N/A
Puerto Rico	Birth to 5	Content Standards and Expectations by Grade Level: Early Childhood Education Birth to 4 Years 11 Months http://www.de.gobierno.pr/sites/de.gobierno.pr/files/ESTANDARES%20DE%20CONTENIDO%20Y%20EXPECTATIVAS%20 DE%20GRADO%20PREESCOLAR%202010.pdf	Yes	N/A
American Samoa		Information forthcoming		N/A
U.S. Virgin Islands	3-5 yrs	Virgin Islands Early Learning Guidelines	Yes	N/A
Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)	Birth to 5	Information forthcoming		N/A
Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI)		Information forthcoming		N/A

STATE/U.S. TERRITORY	AGES	EARLY LEARNING STANDARDS OR BENCHMARKS	QRIS	READINESS ASSESSMENT
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)	Birth to 5	Early Learning Guidlines	Yes	N/A
Republic of Palua		Information forthcoming		N/A
Guam	Birth to 3	Guam Early Learning Guidelines for Young Children (Birth to 36 Months) 2007 http://www.guamcedders.org/docs/publications/1307068695-early-learning-guidelines-birthto3years.pdf	Yes	N/A
	3-5 yrs	Guam Early Learning Guidelines for Young Children Ages Three to Five http://www.guamcedders.org/publications-and-products#special-publications		

^{*} N/A – Not currently available

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Sources

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