



A Guide to Resources for Developing School Readiness Goals

This guide 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 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 resources. 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/NAECSSDE, 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

ELS should also reflect cultural and linguistic diversity (Scott-Little, 2008). In this guide, we list whether or not a state has standards for dual language learners.

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.

Office of Head Start



Resources

- 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
- 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, SERVE Center website: 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
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Child Care Information and Technical Assistance Center (NICCIC). (2010). *State early learning guidelines*. Retrieved from <http://nccic.acf.hhs.gov/resource/state-early-learning-guidelines>
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Child Care Information and Technical Assistance Center (NICCIC). (2011). *QRIS definition and statewide system*. Retrieved from <http://nccic.acf.hhs.gov/resource/qr-is-definition-and-statewide-systems>

State-Level School Readiness Documents (last updated 5/2011)

STATE/US TERRITORY	AGES	EARLY LEARNING STANDARD BENCHMARKS	DLL STANDARDS	QRIS	K- READINESS ASSESSMENT
Alabama	Birth to 5	Alabama Early Learning Guidelines Birth to 5 www.dhr.state.al.us/large_docs/AELG.pdf	No	No	Yes
Alaska	Birth to 5	State of Alaska Early Learning Guidelines www.eed.state.ak.us/publications/EarlyLearningGuidelines.pdf	No	No	Yes
Arizona	3-5 yrs	Arizona Department of Education Early Learning Standards www.ade.az.gov/earlychildhood/downloads/EarlyLearningStandards.pdf	No	Pilot	Yes
Arkansas	Birth to 3	Arkansas Framework for Infant and Toddler Care www.ark.org/childcare/general/infantframework.pdf	Yes	Yes	Yes
	3-5 yrs	Arkansas Early Childhood Education Framework www.state.ar.us/childcare/programsupport/pdf/aeceframwork.pdf	No		
California	Birth to 3	California Infant/Toddler Learning and Development Foundations www.cde.ca.gov/sp/cd/re/documents/itfoundations2009.pdf	No	No	No
	3-5 yrs	California Preschool Learning Foundations www.cde.ca.gov/sp/cd/re/documents/preschoollf.pdf	Yes		
Colorado	3-5 yrs	Colorado P-12 Academic Standards www.cde.state.co.us/cpp/qualitystandards.htm	Yes	Yes	Yes
Connecticut	Birth to 5	Connecticut's Guidelines for the Development of Early Learning for Infants and Toddlers: DRAFT www.wheelerclinic.org/children/EGdraft2forweb.pdf	No	No	Yes
		The Connecticut Preschool Curriculum Framework www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/PDF/DEPS/Early/Preschool_framework.pdf	No		
Delaware	Birth to 5	Infant and Toddler Early Learning Foundations www.doe.k12.de.us/infosuites/students_family/earlychildhood/files/earlychildhood_infant-toddler.pdf	No	Yes	No
		Delaware Early Learning Foundations for School Success www.doe.k12.de.us/infosuites/students_family/earlychildhood/preschool.shtml	No		
District of Columbia	3-5 yrs	Early Learning Standards for Children Entering Kindergarten in the District of Columbia http://osse.dc.gov/seo/lib/seo/pdf/dclearningstandards_num2_05-2005_document.pdf www.state.ar.us/childcare/programsupport/pdf/aeceframwork.pdf	No	Yes	No

STATE/US TERRITORY	AGES	EARLY LEARNING STANDARD BENCHMARKS	DLL STANDARDS	QRIS	K- READINESS ASSESSMENT
Florida	Birth to 5	Florida Birth to Three Learning and Developmental Standards www.unf.edu/dept/fie/PDF%20Folder/Birthto3.pdf	No	No	Yes
		Florida Department of Education 2008 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Standards www.fldoe.org/earlylearning/pdf/vpkedstandard.pdf	No		
Georgia	Birth to 3	Georgia Early Learning Standards http://dec.al.ga.gov/documents/attachments/GELSCoMplete608.pdf	Yes	Yes	Yes
	3-5 yrs	Georgia's PreK Program Content Standards http://dec.al.ga.gov/documents/attachments/Content_Standards_Full.pdf	No		
Hawaii	4-yr-olds	Hawaii Preschool Content Standards www.goodbeginnings.org/pdf/SchoolReadiness/HPCS2004.pdf	No	Yes	Yes
Idaho	Birth to 5	Idaho Early Learning Guidelines www.healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/Portals/0/Children/IELeGuidelines/Idaho_Early_Learning_eGuidelines.htm	Yes	Yes	Yes
Illinois	Birth to 5	Illinois Birth to Three Program Standards http://isbe.net/earlychi/pdf/birth_three_standards.pdf	No	Yes	No
		Illinois Early Learning Standards www.isbe.state.il.us/earlychi/pdf/early_learning_standards.pdf	No		
Indiana	3-5 yrs	Foundations to the Indiana Academic Standards for Birth to Age 5 www.doe.in.gov/primetime/docs/foundations/indiana_foundations.pdf	Yes	Yes	No
Iowa	Birth to 5	Iowa Early Learning Standards Birth to Five www.dhs.state.ia.us/docs/IELS_2-20-006.pdf	No	Yes	Yes
Kansas	Birth to 5	Kansas Early Learning www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=3321	No	Yes	Yes
Kentucky	Birth to 5	Building a Strong Foundation for School Success – Kentucky's Early Childhood Standards www.education.ky.gov/NR/rdonlyres/1C04B68C-01F3-4AF6-855D-56482F9FC0EA/0/BuildingaStrongFoundationforSchoolSuccessKentuckysEarlyChildhoodStandardsREVISED.pdf	No	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	Yes
	3-5 yrs	Louisiana Standards for Programs Serving Four-Year-Old Children www.louisianaschools.net/lde/uploads/17057.pdf	No		

STATE/US TERRITORY	AGES	EARLY LEARNING STANDARD BENCHMARKS	DLL STANDARDS	QRIS	K- READINESS ASSESSMENT
Maine	Birth to 3	Supporting Maine's Infants and Toddlers: Guidelines for Learning and Development www.maine.gov/education/fouryearold/documents/infantsandtoddlerguidelines.pdf	No	Yes	Yes
	3-5 yrs	State of Maine Early Childhood Learning Guidelines www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/ec/occhs/learning.pdf	Yes		
Maryland	Birth to 5	Guidelines for Healthy Child Development and Care for Young Children www.mdchildcare.org/mdcfc/pdfs/Grow_smart_development.pdf	No	Yes	Yes
		Maryland Model for School Readiness (MMSR): Framework and Standards for Prekindergarten http://mdk12.org/instruction/ensure/MMSR/MMSRpkFrameworkAndStandards.pdf	No		
Massachusetts	Birth to 3	Massachusetts Early Learning Guidelines for Infants and Toddlers www.eec.state.ma.us/docs1/Workforce_Dev/Layout.pdf	Yes	Pilot	No
	3-5 yrs	Guidelines for Preschool Learning Experiences www.fcsn.org/pti/topics/earlychildhood/preschool_learning_eec.pdf	No		
Michigan	Birth to 5	Early Childhood Standards of Quality for Infant and Toddler Programs www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/ECSQ-IT_Final_180649_7.pdf	Yes	No	No
		Early Childhood Standards of Quality for Prekindergarten www.michigan.gov/documents/Early_Childhood_Standards_of_Quality_160470_7.PDF	Yes		
Minnesota	Birth to 3	Early Childhood Indicators of Progress: Minnesota's Early Learning Guidelines for Birth to Three www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/groups/children/documents/pub/dhs16_144668.pdf	No	Pilot	Yes
	3-5 yrs	Early Childhood Indicators of Progress: Minnesota's Early Learning Standards http://education.state.mn.us/mdeprod/groups/EarlyLearning/documents/Publication/009530.pdf	Yes		
Mississippi	Birth to 5	Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines for Infants and Toddlers www.earlychildhood.msstate.edu/teacher-resources/MS-IT-ELGS.pdf	No	Yes	No
		Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines for 3 and 4 Years Olds www.mde.k12.ms.us/acad/id/curriculum/laer/earlylearning.html	No		

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Missouri	3-5 yrs	Missouri Early Learning Standards http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/fedprog/earlychild/PreK_Standards/Index.html	Yes	Pilot	No
Montana	Birth to 5	Montana's Early Learning Guidelines for Infants and Toddlers www.mtecp.org/pdfs/infanttoddlereelgs.pdf	No	Yes	No
		Montana's Early Learning Guidelines www.dphhs.mt.gov/hcsd/childcare/documents/mteelgs_001.pdf	No		
Nebraska	Birth to 3	Nebraska Early Learning Guidelines for Ages Birth to Three www.education.ne.gov/ech/ELGuidelines/ELG_IT.pdf	Yes	Yes	Yes
	3-5 yrs	Nebraska Early Learning Guidelines for Ages 3-5 www.education.ne.gov/ech/ELGuidelines/ELG_3to5.pdf	No		
Nevada	3-5 yrs	Nevada Pre-Kindergarten Content Standards www.doe.nv.gov/Standards/Pre-K/Pre-K_Standards.pdf	No	Pilot	No
New Hampshire	Birth to 5	New Hampshire Early Learning Guidelines www.dhhs.state.nh.us/dcyf/cdb/documents/earlylearningguidelines.pdf	No	Yes	No
New Jersey	3-5 yrs	Preschool Teaching and Learning Expectations www.state.nj.us/education/ece/archives/code/expectations/expectations.pdf	Yes	No	Yes
New Mexico	Birth to 5	New Mexico Early Learning Guidelines: Birth Through Kindergarten (Draft) www.newmexicokids.org/#.pages.library.earlyLearning	Yes	Yes	Yes
New York	3-5 yrs	Preschool Planning Guide www.p12.nysed.gov/ciai/pub/pubother.html	No	Pilot	Yes
North Carolina	Birth to 5	Infant-Toddler Foundations http://ncchildcare.dhhs.state.nc.us/pdf_forms/dcd_infant_toddler_early_foundations.pdf	No	Yes	Yes
		Foundations: Early Learning Standards for NC Preschoolers www.ncprek.nc.gov/Foundations/pdf/BW_condensed.pdf	No		
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	No	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-for-ages-3-thru-5.pdf	Yes		

STATE/US TERRITORY	AGES	EARLY LEARNING STANDARD BENCHMARKS	DLL STANDARDS	QRIS	K- READINESS ASSESSMENT
Ohio	Birth to 5	Ohio's Infant and Toddler Guidelines http://jfs.ohio.gov/cdc/infanttoddler.pdf	No	Yes	Yes
		Ohio's Early Learning Content Standards http://education.ohio.gov/GD/Templates/Pages/ODE/ODEDetail.aspx?page=3&TopicRelationID=1698&ContentID=1629&Content=83592	No		
Oklahoma	3-5 yrs	Preschool Teaching and Learning Expectations http://sde.state.ok.us/Programs/ECEduc/pdf/EarlyLearnGuide.pdf	Yes	No	Yes
Oregon	3 to 5	Early Childhood Foundations www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?=1408	Yes	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	Yes
	3-5 yrs	Pre-Kindergarten: Pennsylvania Learning Standards for Early Childhood www.pakeys.org/uploadedContent/Docs/PD/Standards/Pre-Kindergarten%202010.pdf	No		
Rhode Island	3-5 yrs	Rhode Island Early Learning Standards www.ride.ri.gov/els/doc.asp	No	Yes	Yes
South Carolina	Birth to 5	South Carolina's Infant and Toddler Guidelines http://childcare.sc.gov/main/docs/SCInfantToddlerGuidelines.pdf	No	Yes	No
		Good Start Grow Smart South Carolina Early Learning Standards for 3,4, & 5 year-old children. http://childcare.sc.gov/main/docs/gsgs_finalbook_022608.pdf	No		
South Dakota	3-5 yrs	South Dakota Early Learning Guidelines http://doe.sd.gov/contentstandards/documents/EarlyLearningGuidelinesBook.pdf	Yes	No	No
Tennessee	Birth to 5	Early Learning Developmental Standards www.tn.gov/education/ci/earlychildhood/index.shtml	No	Yes	Yes
Texas	4-5 yrs	Revised Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines www.tea.state.tx.us/index2.aspx?id=2147495508&menu_id=2147483718	Yes	Yes	Yes
Utah	4-yr-olds	Pre Kindergarten Guidelines www.schools.utah.gov/curr/core/corepdf/Pre-K.pdf	No	No	No
Vermont	3-5 yrs	Vermont Early Learning Standards http://dcf.vermont.gov/sites/DCF/files/pdf/cdd/care/2006-03-29-VELS_booklet.pdf	No	Yes	Yes
Virginia	4-yr-olds	Virginia's Foundation Blocks for Early Learning www.earlychildhood.virginia.gov/documents/foundationblocks.pdf	No	Pilot	Yes

STATE/US TERRITORY	AGES	EARLY LEARNING STANDARD BENCHMARKS	DLL STANDARDS	QRIS	K- READINESS ASSESSMENT
Washington	Birth to 5	Washington State Early Learning and Development Benchmarks www.k12.wa.us/EarlyLearning/pubdocs/EarlyLearningBenchmarks.pdf	Yes	Pilot	No
West Virginia	3-5 yrs	West Virginia Early Learning Standards Framework http://wvde.state.wv.us/osp/wvprek/WVELSF_pdf.pdf	Yes	No	No
Wisconsin	Birth to 5	Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards www.collaboratingpartners.com/docs/ec-wmels-bk.pdf	No	In dev	No
Wyoming	3-5 yrs	Wyoming Early Childhood Readiness Standards http://edu.wyoming.gov/Libraries/Standards/Standards_2003_Early_Childhood_Readiness.sflb.ashx	Yes	No	No
Midway Atoll Islands		Information forthcoming	N/A		N/A
Puerto Rico	Birth to 5	In revision	N/A	Yes	N/A
American Samoa		Information forthcoming	N/A		N/A
US Virgin Islands	3-5 yrs	Virgin Islands Early Learning Guidelines	N/A	Yes	N/A
Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)	Birth to 5	Information forthcoming	N/A		N/A
Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI)		Information forthcoming	N/A		N/A
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)	Birth to 5	Early Learning Guidelines	N/A	Yes	N/A
Republic of Palua		Information forthcoming	N/A		N/A
Guam	Birth to 5	Guam Early Learning Guidelines for Infants and Toddlers (Birth to 3) Guam Early Learning Guidelines for Young Children Ages Three to Five www.guamcedders.org/publications-and-products	N/A	Yes	N/A

* N/A – Not currently available

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Sources

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For more Information

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