# 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<br>http://dhr.alabama.gov/large_docs/AELG.pdf | No | Yes |
| Alaska | Birth to 5 | State of Alaska Early Learning Guidelines<br>www.eed.state.ak.us/publications/EarlyLearningGuidelines.pdf | No | Yes |
| Arizona | 3-5 yrs | Arizona Department of Education Early Learning Standards<br>http://www.azed.gov/wp-content/uploads/PDF/EarlyLearningStandards.pdf | Pilot | Yes |
| Arkansas | Birth to 3 | Arkansas Framework for Infant and Toddler Care<br>www.ark.org/childcare/general/infantframework.pdf | Yes | Yes |
|  | 3-5 yrs | Arkansas Early Childhood Education Framework<br>www.state.ar.us/childcare/programsupport/pdf/aeceframwork.pdf |  |  |
| California | Birth to 3 | California Infant/Toddler Learning and Development Foundations<br>www.cde.ca.gov/sp/cd/re/documents/itfoundations2009.pdf | No | No |
|  | 3-5 yrs | California Preschool Learning Foundations<br>www.cde.ca.gov/sp/cd/re/documents/preschoollf.pdf |  |  |
| Colorado | 3-5 yrs | Colorado P-12 Academic Standards<br>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:<br>http://www.ct.gov/dss/lib/dss/dss_early_learning_guidelines.pdf | No | Yes |
|  | 3-5 yrs | The Connecticut Preschool Curriculum Framework<br>www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/PDF/DEPS/Early/Preschool_framework.pdf |  |  |
| Delaware | Birth to 3 | Delaware Early Learning Foundations: Infant/Toddler<br>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<br>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<br>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<br>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 2010: Birth to Four Years<br>http://www.flbt5.com/Default.aspx | No | Yes |
| Georgia | Birth to 3 | Georgia Early Learning Standards<br>http://decal.ga.gov/documents/attachments/GELSComplete608.pdf | Yes | Yes |
|  | 3-5 yrs | Georgia's PreK Program Content Standards<br>http://decal.ga.gov/documents/attachments/Content_Standards_Full.pdf |  |  |
| Hawaii | 4-yr-olds | Hawaii Preschool Content Standards<br>http://www.goodbeginnings.org/images/uploads/Preschool_Standards_2006.pdf | Yes | Yes |

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|---|---|---|---|---|
| Idaho | Birth to 5 | Idaho Early Learning Guidelines<br>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<br>http://isbe.net/earlychi/pdf/birth_three_standards.pdf | Yes | No |
| | 3-5 yrs | Illinois Early Learning Standards<br>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<br>http://www.doe.in.gov/sites/default/files/curriculum/indianafoundations-february-2012.pdf | Yes | No |
| Iowa | Birth to 5 | Iowa Early Learning Standards Birth to Five<br>www.dhs.state.ia.us/docs/IELS_2-20-006.pdf | Yes | Yes |
| Kansas | Birth to 5 | Kansas Early Learning<br>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<br>www.education.ky.gov/NR/rdonlyres/1C04B68C-01F3-4AF6-855D-56482F9FC0EA/0/BuildingaStrongFoundationforSchoolSuccessKentuckysEarlyChildhoodStandardsREVISED.pdf | Yes | No |
| Louisiana | Birth to 3 | Louisiana Early Learning Guidelines and Program Standards Birth through Three<br>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<br>www.louisianaschools.net/lde/uploads/17057.pdf | | |
| Maine | Birth to 3 | Supporting Maine's Infants and Toddlers: Guidelines for Learning and Development<br>www.maine.gov/education/fouryearold/documents/infantsandtoddlersguidelines.pdf | Yes | Yes |
| | 3-5 yrs | State of Maine Early Childhood Learning Guidelines<br>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<br>http://cte.jhu.edu/onlinecourses/HealthyBeginnings/HBFINAL.pdf | Yes | Yes |
| | 3-5 yrs | Maryland Model for School Readiness (MMSR): Framework and Standards for Prekindergarten<br>http://mdk12.org/instruction/ensure/MMSR/MMSRpkFrameworkAndStandards.pdf | | |
| Massachusetts | Birth to 3 | Massachusetts Early Learning Guidelines for Infants and Toddlers<br>www.eec.state.ma.us/docs1/Workforce_Dev/Layout.pdf | Pilot | No |
| | 3-5 yrs | Guidelines for Preschool Learning Experiences<br>www.fcsn.org/pti/topics/earlychildhood/preschool_learning_eec.pdf | | |

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|---|---|---|---|---|
| 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 www.earlychildhood.msstate.edu/teacher-resources/MS-IT-ELGS.pdf | Yes | No |
| | 3-5 yrs | Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines for 3 and 4-Year Olds www.mde.k12.ms.us/acad/id/curriculum/laer/earlylearning.html | | |
| 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 Content Standards www.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 |

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|---|---|---|---|---|
| North Carolina | Birth to 3 | Infant-Toddler Foundations<br>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<br>http://chathamkids.org/downloads/BW_condensedfoundations.pdf | | |
| North Dakota | Birth to 3 | Birth to 3. Early Learning Guidelines.<br>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<br>www.nd.gov/dhs/info/pubs/docs/cfs/nd-early-learning-guidelines-for-ages-3-thru-5.pdf | | |
| Ohio | Birth to 3 | Ohio's Infant and Toddler Guidelines<br>http://jfs.ohio.gov/cdc/infanttoddler.pdf | Yes | Yes |
| | 3-5 yrs | Ohio's Early Learning Content Standards<br>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<br>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<br>http://www.cecpd.org/docs/ELG/Early%20Learning%20Guidelines.pdf | | |
| Oregon | Birth to 5 | Early Childhood Foundations<br>www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?=1408 | Yes | No |
| Pennsylvania | Birth to 3 | Infants and Toddlers: Pennsylvania Learning Standards for Early Childhood<br>www.pakeys.org/pages/get.aspx?page=Career_Standards | Yes | Yes |
| | 3-5 yrs | Pre-Kindergarten: Pennsylvania Learning Standards for Early Childhood<br>www.pakeys.org/uploadedContent/Docs/PD/Standards/Pre-Kindergarten%202010.pdf | | |
| Rhode Island | 3-5 yrs | Rhode Island Early Learning Standards<br>www.ride.ri.gov/els/doc.asp | Yes | Yes |
| South Carolina | Birth to 3 | South Carolina's Infant and Toddler Guidelines<br>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.<br>http://childcare.sc.gov/main/docs/gsgs_finalbook_022608.pdf | | |
| South Dakota | 3-5 yrs | South Dakota Early Learning Guidelines<br>http://doe.sd.gov/contentstandards/documents/EarlyLearningGuidelinesBook.pdf | No | No |
| Tennessee | Birth to 5 | Early Learning Developmental Standards<br>www.tn.gov/education/ci/earlychildhood/index.shtml | Yes | Yes |

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|---|---|---|---|---|
| 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/oss/pieces/ta/documents/wv%20elsf.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?MediaId=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%20DE%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 |

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|---|---|---|---|---|
| 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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Daily, S., Burkhauser, M., & Halle, T. (2010). A review of school readiness practices in the states: Early learning guidelines and assessments. *Child Trends Early Childhood Highlights, 1(3)*. Retrieved from http://www.childtrends.org/Files//Child_Trends-2010_06_18_ECH_SchoolReadiness.pdf