

To: ___ House Interim Committee on Education
Senate Interim Committee on Education and Workforce Development
Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education
From: The State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC)
Re: Recommendation on rule making and policy development authority
Date: October 1, 2014

The legislative charge in House Bill 3234:

Section 36. (1) The State Interagency Coordinating Council shall submit a report to interim legislative committees on education that provides a recommendation about the appropriate entity to adopt rules and develop policy related to early childhood special education and early intervention services.

(2) When making the recommendation the council shall:

(a) Consult with the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Early Learning System Director, providers of early childhood special education and early intervention services, parents of children with disabilities and other advocacy groups identified by the council; and

(b) Ensure the recommendation complies with federal special education laws, continuity of program rules and other safeguards established for programs related to special education and intervention services.

(3) If the SICC recommends the authority to adopt rules and develop policy be vested in the State Board of Education, the council shall recommend methods by which the board shall seek and incorporate input from other entities providing early learning services.

(4) The report required by this section must be submitted no later than October 1, 2014.

Input from stakeholders and leaders was gathered in the following ways:

- Seven stakeholder forums were held around the state in May-June of 2014.
- The SICC Chair and members of the Executive Committee met with the following four key leaders in the state to gain their input; Rob Saxton, Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction, Nancy Golden, Chief Education Officer, Megan Irwin, Acting Early Learning Division Director and Duke Shepard, Governor Kitzhaber's Labor and Human Services Policy Advisor.
- An electronic survey conducted from late August through September 12, 2014 received 500 responses of which 60% were parents of children with disabilities.
- The materials and process to gather input was guided by an outside facilitator.
- Recommendations were drafted and sent to SICC members for an electronic vote. Summaries of all the input was sent with the recommendations. The recommendations were approved by a majority vote of SICC members on September 30, 2014.

Recommendations:

The SICC recommends that the State Board of Education is the appropriate entity to adopt rules and develop policy related to early childhood special education and early intervention programs.

This recommendation acknowledges the complex federal and state laws, regulations and rules that govern the early intervention and early childhood special education (EI/ECSE) programs and the need for them to be closely aligned, and in most cases identical, to those governing kindergarten through 21-year olds.

Recommendations to ensure there is input from and coordination with the Early Learning Division and other entities providing early learning services ;

- The SICC recommends there be clear and formalized methods for the State Board of Education to seek and incorporate input from other entities providing early learning services regarding proposed rules and policies.

These formal agreements would ensure there is meaningful and timely input from other agencies and partners providing early learning services. An example of a formal agreement between the State Board of Education and the Early Learning Council could be a Memorandum of Understanding or an Interagency Agreement written and signed by both parties that specifies how and when input would be solicited and provided during the drafting of rules and development of policies.

- The SICC recommends that the Director of EI/ECSE programs be part of the Early Learning Division Leadership group.

This recommendation will allow for regular communication and participation in program and policy development that is inclusive of all young children and provides resources and supports from all early childhood programs, including children with disabilities.

- The SICC recommends that when workgroups are formed on specific topics and/or initiatives, representation from EI/ECSE be included to help and support the development of successful initiatives for young children.

Examples of the implementation of this recommendation include but are not limited to: professional development, program standards, outcomes, Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (QRIS) implementation, developmental screening, family resource management, equity initiatives, accessibility and inclusiveness.

- The SICC recommends coordinated governance and a strong connection between EI/ECSE programs and the Early Learning Division by providing representation of the Early Learning Council on the SICC and from the SICC on the Early Learning Council.

This recommendation will foster coordinated governance and a strong connection between EI/ECSE programs and the Early Learning Division.

