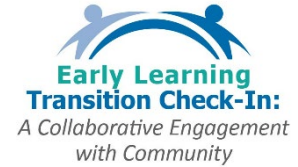




2025 Family Conversation Priorities



The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) and Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) have been working with communities across the state to redesign the Oregon Kindergarten Assessment (OKA). In fall 2023, Oregon Kitchen Table (OKT) began hosting a series of community conversations with families and providers who participated in the Family Conversation, a pilot approach to support students’ transitions into kindergarten. In the spring of 2024, OKT hosted broader community engagements with early learning partners and community based organizations that work closely with focal groups. Visit

oregonskitchentable.org/results/early-learning-transition-check-ins to download OKT’s executive summary and full report.

The reports were shared with the ELTC’s advisory panel to review and provide feedback. The table below provides a summary of OKT’s recommendations, links to the project goals and the advisory panel’s suggestions. ODE and DELIC will focus on the following priorities in 2025.

Project Goals	OKT’s Recommendations	Potential Action Steps
The Family Conversation strengthens communication between families and educators	Bridge language access resources to support children, families and educators	Additional guidance and/or technical assistance provided to districts to support working with interpreters during Family Conversations. Communication to districts about adjustment in schedules to allow for longer sessions that will need translation. More robust training materials that emphasize the need to establish a district/school team who will support communication, scheduling, greeting families and interpretation
	Establish a sense of safety and trust prior to the Family Conversation	Provide kindergarten transition activities and events for children and families over a period of time. The Family Conversation is one component of transition activities. Update Planning Document to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional guidance for how to collaborate with Early learning education partners to support families with a “warm hand off” to Kindergarten and district programs and staff. • Planning opportunities to connect previous Kindergarten families to incoming families. Lean on their experience as expertise to serve as a bridge to the school community.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exploring choice and offering different environments where the Family Conversation can be held that are familiar to the incoming families such as park, community-based building or home. <p>Continue to collaborate with Student Success Advisory Committees to gather feedback about training materials that support anti-racist practices.</p>
The Family Conversation supports enhanced family and educator engagement	Foster broader community connections through future engagement	<p>Provide resources to enable educators to intentionally connect and engage with families and caregivers.</p> <p>Build in relationship building time into educators’/schools’ schedules - systemic format.</p> <p>Leverage Hubs and their role as community conveners of many partners (K-12, early learning, libraries, etc.)</p>
The Family Conversation is part of a supportive transition to kindergarten	Create and offer basic school and classroom information in multiple languages about schools in Oregon and kindergarten	Provide accessible information and resources to educators on best practices to plan for translations and work with interpreters. Make resources available to all educators and early learning staff.
	Broaden collaboration opportunities between early learning programs, schools, and educators	<p>Increase collaboration between local and regional programs, schools and educators to support the child and family transition to kindergarten. Including the Early Learning Hubs serve as conveners in each community and can support relationship building.</p> <p>Establish community of practice with those who have had experience with the Family Conversation with those who are new.</p>
	Co-Create a community outreach and communication plan with local early learning programs and culturally specific organizations for the kindergarten transition and beyond	<p>Regional and local communities may create and maintain communication and engagement systems to be shared across systems. Redundancy in systems and practice becomes familiar and helpful to families.</p> <p>System redundancy aligns with the literature on Community Health Workers and positive health outcomes.</p>
Family Conversation data is used to support system alignment and improvement	Explore how ODE and DELC can support connections and information sharing across systems and organizations.	<p>Via questions, opportunity to identify and better understand barriers families face prior to Kindergarten and to use data to create action plans for program and system improvements</p> <p>Continue engaging with community and early learning system partners on the preferred and most helpful data sharing processes and formats.</p>