



Ohio's Early Learning Initiative

The Early Learning Initiative (ELI) is a collaboration between the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) and The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) that is designed to provide educational experiences and child care services to children, often identified as at risk of school failure, to help them enter kindergarten ready for success.

Funding

- Early learning services will be supported by Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funding of \$125,256,000 in SFY 2008 and SFY 2009 with the goal of providing services for at least 12,000 children.
- Each fiscal year budget includes \$2.8 million for ODE and ODJFS to administer the program.

Children's Eligibility

- County Departments of Job and Family Services (CDJFS) will determine eligibility.
- Children ages 3 through compulsory school age are eligible for ELI if:
 - Their family's income is at or below 185% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.
- OR:
 - The child is receiving child-only OWF cash assistance.

Provider Requirements

- Provide **planned instruction** by a **teacher** who is enrolled in a program leading to an associate's degree in Early Childhood Education or holds an associate degree or higher in Early Childhood Education.
- Implement **curriculum aligned** with the ODE Early Learning Content Standards.
- Participate in **professional development** as determined or required by the ODE, Office of Early Learning and School Readiness.
- **Assess program quality** on a biannual basis to determine program capacity and professional development needs, through the Early Language and Literacy Classroom Observation Guide (ELLCO).
- Monitor and **report child progress** using the assessment "Get It Got It Go."

Quality Assurance through Licensing and Monitoring

- ELI providers will be licensed by ODJFS or ODE.
- ELI providers will develop a plan to meet the goals in Ohio's Early Learning Program Guidelines for School Readiness.
- ODE will monitor adherence with program guidelines and will track non compliance.
- ODJFS will do all fiscal monitoring and audits.
- ODE will conduct an evaluation of program implementation and child progress.

Training and TA

- ODE will provide training and technical assistance on the **program requirements** and **guidelines**.
- ODJFS will provide training and technical assistance for **eligibility** and **fiscal issues**.

Marketing and Outreach

- ODE will provide marketing brochures for ELI to potential eligible families.

Contracted Agency Reimbursement

- Reimbursement is based on the number of hours that a child receives ELI services in a four week pay cycle. The maximum yearly rate is \$9,438 per slot, with an additional \$1,000 per slot available as an enrollment award.
 - **Full time:** 100 or more hours of attendance per child in a pay cycle is reimbursed at a full time rate of \$726.00.
 - **Part time:** 55 - 99.5 hours of attendance per child in a pay cycle is reimbursed at a part time rate of \$544.52.
 - **Less than part time:** hours of attendance is less than part time is reimbursed at an hourly rate of \$7.53 per hour.