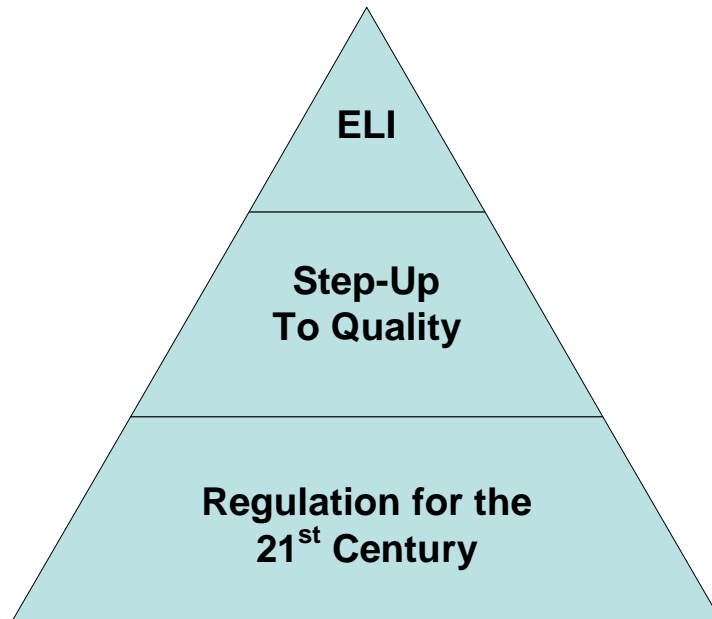


Regulation for the 21st Century



In recent years, Ohio has developed and implemented strong systems to address the needs of children who are participating in out of home care. The Bureau of Child Care and Development currently has strong programs in place that support both quality (Step-Up To Quality) and school readiness (Early Learning Initiative). Now we need to assure that our regulatory system is a strong foundation on which to continue to build these two programs.

House Bill 11 gives the Department of Job and Family Services the responsibility of recommending sanctions, which would be imposed on persons or entities that violate child care provider laws and rules. In taking this work one step further, a two part system is being proposed. The first part of the system is to develop progressive sanctions, which would be based on the scope and severity of the violation(s). The second part of the system is to develop a weighted licensing system, with those rules which place a child at serious risk of harm being assigned a higher point value.

The goal of Regulation for the 21st Century is to shape a market from the ground up by creating a system that implicitly describes to providers what is expected and the consequences if those expectations are not met. Additionally, it would provide parents with easily understood data, in order to make good early care and education choices on behalf of their children.

It is the Bureau of Child Care and Development's belief that by devising a strong system of regulation, accountability will be strengthened, and continued compliance will be encouraged, as we work toward the broader goal of quality improvement.