



## 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 children, often identified as at risk of school failure, with educational experiences that will help them enter kindergarten ready for success; and meet the child care needs of working families.

### Funding

- Early learning services will be supported by Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funding of **\$104.3 million in FY 2006** for up to **10,000 children** and **\$125.2 million in FY 2007** for up to **12,000** children.
- Each fiscal year budget includes **\$3 million** for administration, marketing and evaluation.

### Children's Eligibility

- County departments of Job and Family Services will determine eligibility.
- Children ages 3, 4, and 5 are eligible for the ELI if their families are:
  - Working at least one hour each week
  - On OWF cash assistance and meeting work requirements
  - At or below 185% of the Federal Poverty Line
- OR:
- If 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 meet Ohio's Early Learning Program Guidelines for School Readiness.
- ODE will monitor adherence with program guidelines and will report noncompliant providers to ODJFS.
- 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 do statewide targeted **marketing** for ELI to potential eligible families.

**Funding Formula**

- The formula is based upon a **mix of weekly and hourly rates\*** that are dependent upon the number of hours of attendance. The maximum rate is \$9,938 per slot per year, with an additional \$500 per slot per year available as a bonus incentive.
  - a. **Full time:** Full time is defined as 25 hours or more of attendance each week per child. A flat weekly rate of \$191.12 (\$9,938/52 weeks) will be reimbursed.
  - b. **Part time:** Part-time is defined as 15-24.9 hours of attendance per week per child. A flat weekly rate of \$143.34 (\$7,453.50/52 weeks) will be reimbursed.
  - c. **Less than part time:** Any less than 20 hours (1–14.9 hours) per week

Urban/Metro	\$5.84
Midsized County	\$5.05
Rural	\$4.30

\*Note: these rates are effective September 26, 2005.

For additional information on the ELI program, please visit ODE’s website:

<http://www.ode.state.oh.us/ece/>