

Early Learning Academy 2023–2024



Children's Institute's Early Learning Academy is a cohort-based learning experience for educators and administrators working to strengthen early learning in their district.

This learning opportunity is built on 13 years of experience partnering with school districts across Oregon to create and strengthen early learning, fit to local contexts, through our Early Works and Early School Success initiatives. We've refined what we've learned into essential practices and an inclusive process for change.

We will draw from the expertise of local culturally specific organizations that have found ways to partner with school districts to create powerful solutions for the communities they serve.

The Early Learning Academy is not like most professional development you may have experienced!

In these sessions, you will work as a district team to build a strong early learning system in your local school community. During the Academy, you will plan changes in your local school system alongside other districts working to address similar issues. The Early Learning Academy is equal parts planning and professional development for early learning professionals and advocates.

Who

District teams of 3–10 members, including a designated team lead responsible for coordinating the work with the ELA coaches. Other members may include principals, preschool and elementary teachers, early learning coaches, equity coaches, curriculum directors, early learning coordinators, counselors, dual language teachers, SPED teachers, community partners, etc. We strongly believe in and encourage teams to have a range of diverse perspectives.

Registration is open!

To learn more or get registered, please contact Erin Lolich at erin.lolich@childinst.org.

What

- Learn with and from peers in other districts
- Build ideas based on expertise from culturally specific organizations
- Three days of learning via Zoom, plus five tailored coaching sessions for your team

As a participant in the Early Learning Academy, you will:

- Develop your ability to build or improve early learning in your district with a lens toward equity and community voice.
- Learn about real examples of work done to build and align early learning systems from educators across Oregon.
- Become a part of our network, sharing learning with colleagues around the state.
- Have access to our growing Change Library of ideas that will help inspire you and others to carry this work into the future.

Outcomes

Participants will:

- Improve access to preschool and the educational experience for all students in the community by aligning and improving early learning and early grades.
- Strengthen the teaching community and school climate by creating a change culture that empowers educators, gives them agency in making improvements, and lifts up their strengths.
- Gain skills to enact system change by examining their own problems, root causes, and collaborating with their own teams and others to design prekindergarten through 5th grade programming that is human-centered and grounded in equity and inclusion
- Gain skills in program development, early literacy, and social emotional learning.

When

- October 18, 9:00–3:00 via Zoom
- January 18, 9:00–3:00 via Zoom
- March 14, 9:00–3:00 via Zoom

This also includes five coaching sessions that will be scheduled based on your team's needs and may extend through June.