

CA ELQIS IMPLEMENTATION

First 5 Association of CA Recommendations

ECE Quality Supported by First 5s

- First 5 quality improvement efforts built on the idea that ECE environments are essential to birth-5 systems of care
- Full ECE quality cannot be reached without integrating multiple systems of care, and drawing on diverse funding streams
- ECE quality requires thinking beyond what the ECE system itself provides

Preschool Quality Efforts

- Preschool expansion efforts are at the heart of First 5 county commission efforts to build quality ECE.
- In 2008-2009, commissions invested nearly \$160 million in expansion efforts (including facilities, fully-funded programs, quality enhancements, and workforce development)
- 26,000 children served in county commission-funded preschool programs in 2008-2009
- 36,789 unduplicated, new preschool slots have been funded by county commissions since 2001

County Commissions Support QIS

- Building QI Systems has become central to many county commission efforts- recognizing that investments at many levels must be integrated, tracked, and evaluated.
- Locally-developed QI Systems look very similar to the draft CA ELQIS recommendations.
- 21 County Commissions are currently investing in local QIS efforts, usually as the lead agency and primarily (if not sole) funder.

Elements of Local QIS – Program

- Increased per-child reimbursements
- Higher standards for teacher - child ratio and group size than licensing requires
- Coordination of Kindergarten transition program
- Reviewing and supporting use of a standard curriculum
- Quality grants for participating programs
- Additional supports for children with special needs
- Additional supports for English Language Learners
- Workforce training and supports
- Tracking and incentivizing degree attainment
- Parent engagement training and supports

Elements of Local QIS – Data

- Data and Infrastructure Investments
 - ▣ Data systems linking Preschools and K-12
 - ▣ Classroom Assessments
 - Environmental – ERS
 - Teacher-Child Interaction – CLASS
 - Administration – PAS
 - Developmental Assessments – ASQ
 - DRDP Tracking
 - ▣ Kindergarten Readiness Observational Assessments

QIS Improves Child Outcomes

□ Los Angeles

- Using a Kindergarten Readiness Measure, researchers assessing LAUP preschoolers documented a significant increase in school readiness for children in LAUP classrooms.
- The study showed that the percentage of children who demonstrated near-proficiency across all building blocks increased from 22 percent in the fall of 2008 to 72 percent in the spring of 2009.

□ San Francisco

- The 2008 RAND report on California's preschool quality reported that San Francisco's PFA classrooms outperform national scores by an average of 25%.

Implementation Lessons Learned

- QIS Costs are both one-time and on-going
 - ▣ First 5s have underwritten tool development, assessment training, and annual assessments.
- Data Systems are critical to success
 - ▣ First 5s have developed data systems that link to state-level, county-level, and program-level systems.
- Without statewide implementation, local incentives continue to be necessary
 - ▣ First 5s provide teacher incentives, additional reimbursements, and other grant funds.
- Partnerships among multiple local agencies are essential to meeting children's needs.

Integrating the First 5 Experience

- The First 5 Association supports continued dialogue about how to link CA ELQIS recommendations to on-the-ground systems and programs developed and funded by county First 5 commissions.
- Understanding that funding sources for CA ELQIS pilots will be limited, First 5s with QIS systems (or components of systems) could provide a way of moving the CA ELQIS recommendations forward where those local models meet CA ELQIS standards.

County Option Model

- Would allow county First 5 commissions and other entities that can bring financial resources, expertise, and local connections to lead local implementation of statewide regulations.
- Could include implementation of:
 - ▣ Statewide rating systems
 - ▣ Training and technical assistance
 - ▣ Comprehensive child-teacher and environmental assessments

Advantages of County-Option

- Fuller and more expedient pilot testing
- Greater number of counties in initial roll-out
- Direction of limited state resources towards counties without local QIS already in place
- Leveraging of local evaluation efforts
- Extension of successful partnerships supporting ECE quality



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