



State/Territory Early Learning Guidelines

This document provides an overview of the implementation of early learning guidelines (ELGs), a count of State/Territory ELGs by age group, and current Web links to all State ELGs. The National Center on Child Care Quality Improvement does not endorse any non-Federal organization, publication, or resource.

Implementation of ELGs

During the past decade, States have moved forward with initiatives to strengthen early childhood programming and emphasize greater accountability for child outcomes. One of those efforts has been the development of Early Learning Guidelines (ELG). As states have worked to implement ELGs and integrate them into the broader early care and education system, the way that they are developed, conceived and defined or classified has shifted. In fact, the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) program application uses the term “Early Learning and Development Standards” as one that is interchangeable with Early Learning Guidelines. RTT-ELC defines Early Learning and Development Standards as “a set of expectations, guidelines, or developmental milestones that:

- a. Describe what all children from birth to kindergarten entry should know and be able to do and their disposition toward learning;
- b. Are appropriate for each age group (e.g., infants, toddlers, and preschoolers); for English learners; and for children with disabilities or developmental delays;
- c. Cover all Essential Domains of School Readiness; and
- d. Are universally designed and developmentally, culturally, and linguistically appropriate.”

One of the priorities for the Office of Child Care is increasing the number of States that are implementing voluntary early learning guidelines that cover a range of domains across physical, cognitive, and social and emotional development, are incorporated into other parts of the child care system, and align with the standards for other sectors (such as, Head Start, prekindergarten, and K-12) .

Significant progress has been made in developing and implementing Early Learning Guidelines. All 56 States and Territories have developed ELGs for preschool children, and virtually all have ELGs for infants and toddlers. Currently, 16 States have ELGs for children birth to 5 years in one document, and many are in the process of revising their ELGs. With the development of the Common Core State Standards, there appears to be a trend among States to revise their ELGs and work to align them across age groups.

The following table provides a summary of States/Territories with ELGs by age group¹.

Age Group	State/Territory	Total
Birth to Three	AK, AL, AR, AS, AZ, CA, CO, CT, DC, DE, FL, GA, GU, HI, IA, ID, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MS, MT, NC, ND, NE, NH, NJ, NM, NMI, NV, NY, OH, OK, OR, PA, PR, RI, SC, TN, TX, UT, VA, VI, WA, WI, WV, WY	53
Three to Five	AK, AL, AR, AS, AZ, CA, CO, CT, DC, DE, FL, GA, GU, HI, IA, ID, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MO, MS, MT, NC, ND, NE, NH, NJ, NM, NMI, NV, NY, OH, OK, OR, PA, PR, RI, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VA, VI, VT, WA, WI, WV, WY	56

ELGs Available on the Web

The following table provides the Web sites for ELGs from the States. ELGs for Territories are included in the table above.

State	ELG Name and Web Site	ELG Age Range
Alabama	<i>Alabama Early Learning Guidelines</i> http://dhr.alabama.gov/large_docs/aelg.pdf	Birth to 5 years
Alaska	<i>Early Learning Guidelines (2007)</i> http://www.eed.state.ak.us/tls/sped/pdf/Early_Learning_Guidelines_Dec2007.pdf	Birth to 5 years
Arizona	<i>Early Learning Standards (2013)</i> http://www.azed.gov/early-childhood/files/2011/11/arizona-early-learning-standards-3rd-edition.pdf	3 to 5 years
	<i>Arizona's Infant and Toddler Developmental Guidelines</i> http://www.azftf.gov/Documents/Arizona%20Infant%20and%20Toddler%20Developmental%20Guidelines%20DRAFT%20for%20VETTING.pdf ²	Birth to 3 years
Arkansas	<i>Arkansas Framework for Infant and Toddler Care (2002)</i> http://www.arkansas.gov/childcare/general/infantframework.pdf	Birth to 3 years
	<i>Arkansas Early Childhood Education Framework (2004)</i> http://www.arkansas.gov/childcare/programsupport/pdf/aeceframework.pdf	3 to 5 years

¹ Although the period of early childhood extends to age 8, most states include children starting at age five in their K-12 standards. This document focuses on standards for children ages birth to five and will not include K-12 standards.

² These standards are still in draft form.

State	ELG Name and Web Site	ELG Age Range
California	<i>California Infant/Toddler Learning & Development Foundations</i> (2009) http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/cd/re/itfoundations.asp	Birth to 3 years
	<i>California Preschool Learning Foundations, Volume 1</i> (2008) http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/cd/re/psfoundations.asp	3 to 5 years
Colorado	<i>Colorado Early Learning & Development Guidelines</i> (2013) http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite?blobcol=urldata&blobheadername1=Content-Disposition&blobheadername2=Content-Type&blobheadervalue1=inline%3B+filename%3D%22Early+Learning+Guidelines.pdf%22&blobheadervalue2=application%2Fpdf&blobkey=id&blobtable=MungoBlobs&blobwhere=1251868345264&ssbinary=true	Birth to 5 years
Connecticut	<i>Guidelines for the Development of Infant and Toddler Early Learning</i> http://www.ct.gov/dss/lib/dss/dss_early_learning_guidelines.pdf	Birth to 3 years
	<i>Connecticut Early Learning and Development Standards</i> (2014) http://www.ct.gov/oec/lib/oec/earlycare/elds/ctelds.pdf	Birth to 5 years
	<i>Connecticut Preschool Assessment Framework</i> (2005) http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/PDF/DEPS/Early/Preschool_Assessment_Framework.pdf	3 to 5 years
Delaware	<i>Delaware Infant and Toddler Early Learning Foundations: A Curriculum Framework</i> (2006) http://www.doe.k12.de.us/infosuites/students_family/earlychildhood/files/earlychildhood_infant-toddler.pdf	Birth to 3 years
	<i>Early Learning Foundations for School Success</i> (2003) http://www.doe.k12.de.us/infosuites/students_family/earlychildhood/files/Early%20Learning%20Foundations%20Revised.pdf	3 to 5 years
District of Columbia	<i>Early Learning Standards: Infants, Toddlers, and Pre-Kindergarten</i> (2008) http://osse.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/osse/publication/attachments/521_Early_Learning_Standards.pdf	Birth to 5 years
Florida	<i>Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards</i> (2010) http://flbt5.floridaearlylearning.com/	Birth to 4 years
	<i>Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards for Four-Year-Olds</i> (2011) http://flbt5.floridaearlylearning.com/BT5_Uploads/feldsfyo.pdf	4-year-olds

State	ELG Name and Web Site	ELG Age Range
Georgia	<i>Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards</i> (2013) http://www.gelds.dec.state.ga.us/Default.aspx	Birth to 5 years
	<i>Georgia's Pre-K Program Content Standards</i> (Revised March 2008) http://dec.state.ga.us/documents/attachments/Content_Standards_Full.pdf	4-year-olds
Hawaii	<i>Hawaii Early Learning and Development Standards: Framework and Continuum from Birth to End of Kindergarten</i> (April 2013) http://www.goodbeginnings.org/pdf/SchoolReadiness/HPCS2004.pdf	Birth to 5 years and older
	<i>Learning to Grow Developmental Guidelines for Infants, Toddlers, and Young Preschoolers</i> (2011) http://uhfamily.hawaii.edu/publications/guides/DevelopmentalGuidelinesAndEarlyLearningActivities.htm	Birth to 4 years
Idaho	<i>Idaho Early Learning Guidelines</i> (October 2008) http://www.healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/Portals/0/Unknown/123008%20Cover%20Introduction%20and%20Framework%20with%20at%20a%20glance%20tables.pdf	Birth to 3 rd Grade
Illinois	<i>Illinois Early Learning and Development Standards for Preschool</i> (2013) http://illinoisearlylearning.org/fields/fields.pdf	3 to 5 years
	<i>Illinois Early Learning Guidelines for Children Birth to Age Three</i> (2013) http://illinoisearlylearning.org/guidelines/guidelines.pdf	Birth to 3 years
Indiana	<i>Foundations to the Indiana Academic Standards for Young Children from Birth to Age 5</i> (2006) http://www.doe.in.gov/sites/default/files/curriculum/indianafoundations-february-2012.pdf	Birth to 5 years
Iowa	<i>Iowa Early Learning Standards</i> (2006) http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/docs/IELS_2-20-006.pdf	Birth to 5 years
Kansas	<i>Kansas Early Learning Guidelines & Standards: Building the Foundation for Successful Children</i> http://www.unitedwayrc.org/sites/unitedwayrc.org/files/Kansas%20Early%20Learning%20Standards.pdf	Birth to 5 years
Kentucky	<i>Building a Strong Foundation for School Success: Early Childhood Standards</i> (2009) http://www.bereartc.org/BuildingaStrongFoundationforSchoolSuccessKentuckyEarlyChildhoodStandardsREVISED.pdf	Birth to 5 years

State	ELG Name and Web Site	ELG Age Range
Louisiana	<i>Louisiana's Early Learning Guidelines and Program Standards: Birth through Three</i> (2005) http://www.dss.state.la.us/assets/docs/searchable/OFS/LAEarlyLearningGuide.pdf	Birth to 3 years
	<i>Louisiana Standards for Programs Serving Four-Year-Old Children</i> (2003) http://www.doe.state.la.us/lde/uploads/3014.pdf	4-year-olds
Maine	<i>Supporting Maine's Infants & Toddlers: Guidelines for Learning & Development</i> (2006) http://www.maine.gov/earlylearning/standards/infantsandtoddlerguidelines.pdf	Birth to 3 years
	<i>State of Maine Early Childhood Learning Guidelines</i> (2005) http://www.maine.gov/earlylearning/standards/early-childhood-learning-guidelines.pdf	3 to 5 years
Maryland	<i>Guidelines for Healthy Child Development and Care For Young Children (Birth – Three Years of Age)</i> (updated 2006) http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/msde/divisions/child_care/guidelines	Birth to 3 years
	<i>Maryland Model for School Readiness</i> (2004) http://mdk12.org/instruction/ensure/MMSR/MMSRkFrameworkAndStandards.pdf	3 to 5 years
Massachusetts	<i>Guidelines for Preschool Learning Experiences</i> (2003) http://www.eec.state.ma.us/docs1/research_planning/guidelines4preschool.pdf	3 to 5 years
	<i>Massachusetts Early Learning Guidelines for Infants and Toddlers</i> (2010) http://www.eec.state.ma.us/docs1/Workforce_Dev/Layout.pdf	Birth to 3 years
	<i>Early Childhood Program Standards for Three and Four Year Olds</i> (2003) www.eec.state.ma.us/docs1/research_planning/ta_earlychildprogstan.pdf	3 to 4 years
Michigan	<i>Michigan Early Childhood Standards of Quality for Infant and Toddler Programs</i> (Revised March 2013) http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/ECSQ_IT_approved_422341_7.pdf	Birth to 3 years
	<i>Early Childhood Standards of Quality for Prekindergarten</i> (2005) http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/ECSQ_OK_Approved_422339_7.pdf	3 to 5 years

State	ELG Name and Web Site	ELG Age Range
Minnesota	<i>Early Childhood Indicators of Progress: Minnesota's Early Learning Guidelines for Birth to 3</i> (2007) http://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Legacy/DHS-4438-ENG	Birth to 3 years
	<i>Minnesota Early Childhood Indicators of Progress: Minnesota's Early Learning Standards</i> (2005) http://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Legacy/DHS-4576-ENG	3 to 5 years
Mississippi	<i>Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines for 3 and 4 Year Olds</i> (2004 and 2006) http://www.earlychildhood.msstate.edu/resources/pdfs/ELS-3s-MDE.pdf http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/docs/curriculum-and-instructions-library/4-year-old-guidelines.pdf?sfvrsn=2	3 to 4 years
	<i>Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines For Infants and Toddlers</i> (2010) http://msucares.com/childcare/elg/ms_it_elgs.pdf	Birth to 3 years
Missouri	<i>Pre-K Standards</i> (2003) http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/fedprog/earlychild/PreK_Standards/Index.html	3 to 5 years
Montana	<i>Montana's Early Learning Guidelines for Infants and Toddlers</i> http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/hcsd/childcare/documents/infanttoddlereelgs.pdf	Birth to 3 years
	<i>Early Learning Guidelines</i> (2004) http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/hcsd/childcare/documents/mteelgs_001.pdf	3 to 5 years
Nebraska	<i>Early Learning Guidelines for Ages Birth to 3</i> (2006) http://www.education.ne.gov/oec/pubs/ELG/B_3_English.pdf	Birth to 3 years
	<i>Nebraska's Early Learning Guidelines for Ages 3 to 5</i> (2005) http://www.education.ne.gov/oec/pubs/ELG/3_5_English.pdf	3 to 5 years
Nevada	<i>Nevada Pre-Kindergarten Content Standards</i> (2010) http://www.nevadaregistry.org/fb_files/PreKStandards-FINAL.pdf	3 to 5 years
	<i>Nevada Infant and Toddler Early Learning Guidelines DRAFT COPY</i> (2011) http://www.nevadaregistry.org/fb_files/InfantToddlerGuidelinesDRAFTAugust2011.pdf	Birth through 3 years
New Hampshire	<i>The New Hampshire Early Learning Guidelines</i> (2005) http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dcyf/cdb/documents/earlylearningguidelines.pdf	Birth to 5 years

State	ELG Name and Web Site	ELG Age Range
New Jersey	<i>Preschool Teaching & Learning Standards</i> (2013) http://www.state.nj.us/education/cccs/PreSchoolFinal.doc	3 to 5 years
	<i>Preschool Program Implementation Guidelines</i> (2010) http://www.state.nj.us/education/ece/guide/impguidelines.pdf	
New Mexico	<i>New Mexico Early Learning Guidelines</i> (2011) https://www.newmexicokids.org/content/caregivers_and_educators/resource/s/docs/Early_Learning_Guidelines_Birth_thru_Kindergarten.pdf	Birth through Kindergarten
New York	<i>New York State Early Learning Guidelines</i> (2012) http://ccf.ny.gov/files/1913/9145/8901/Early_Learning_Guidelines_2013.pdf	Birth to 5 years
North Carolina	<i>Foundations: Early Learning Standards for North Carolina Preschoolers and Strategies for Guiding Their Success</i> (2005) http://www.earlylearning.nc.gov/Foundations/pdf/BW_condensed.pdf	3 to 5 years
	<i>Infant-Toddler Foundations</i> (2008) http://ncchildcare.dhhs.state.nc.us/pdf_forms/dcd_infant_toddler_early_foundations.pdf	Birth to 3 years
North Dakota	<i>North Dakota Early Learning Guidelines for Children Ages Three Through Five Years</i> http://www.nd.gov/dhs/info/pubs/docs/cfs/nd-early-learning-guidelines-for-ages-3-thru-5.pdf	3 to 5 years
	<i>Early Learning Guidelines</i> http://www.nd.gov/dhs/info/pubs/docs/cfs/2009-08-earlylearning-birth-3.pdf	Birth to 3 years
Ohio	<i>Ohio's Infant and Toddler Guidelines: Early Experiences Last a Lifetime</i> (2006) http://jfs.ohio.gov/cdc/InfantToddler.pdf	Birth to 3 years
	<i>DRAFT - Ohio Early Learning and Development Standards</i> (2012) http://education.ohio.gov/GD/Templates/Pages/ODE/ODEDetail.aspx?page=3&TopicRelationID=1698&ContentID=1629&Content=127736	Birth to 5 years
Oklahoma	<i>Oklahoma Pre-Kindergarten Curriculum Guidelines</i> (2003) http://www.okdhs.org/NR/rdonlyres/19E5558F-3FC3-4812-AC11-6AC7ACA69DAE/0/OklahomaEarlyLearningGuidelines_dcc_10302007.pdf	3 to 5 years
	<i>Early Learning Guidelines for Infants, Toddlers and Twos</i> http://www.okdhs.org/NR/rdonlyres/DCBC98D7-48B3-42C3-BEFE-C4ABE6F486AC/0/1023_OklahomaEarlyLearningGuide_occ036mo_04012011.pdf	Birth to 3 years

State	ELG Name and Web Site	ELG Age Range
Oregon	<i>Oregon Early Childhood Foundations: Ages Three to Five</i> (2006) http://www.ode.state.or.us/superintendent/priorities/ready4school/3to5foundations.pdf	3 to 5 years
	<i>Oregon Early Childhood Foundations - Birth to 3</i> (2007) http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=1352	Birth to 3 years
Pennsylvania	<i>2009 Early Childhood Education Standards</i> (2009) http://www.pakeys.org/pages/get.aspx?page=career_standards	Birth to 5 years
Rhode Island	<i>Rhode Island Early Learning and Development Standards</i> (2013) http://www.ride.ri.gov/Portals/0/Uploads/Documents/Instruction-and-Assessment-World-Class-Standards/Early-Childhood/ELDS/2013_Early_Learning_and_Development_Standards.pdf	9 months to 5 years
South Carolina	<i>Good Start, Grow Smart Early Learning Standards</i> (2005) http://childcare.sc.gov/main/docs/gsgs_finalbook_022608.pdf	3 to 5 years
	<i>South Carolina's Infant & Toddler Guidelines</i> (2008) http://childcare.sc.gov/main/docs/SCInfantToddlerGuidelines.pdf	Birth to 3 years
South Dakota	<i>South Dakota Early Learning Guidelines</i> http://doe.sd.gov/contentstandards/documents/EarlyLearningGuidelinesBook.pdf	3 to 5 years
Tennessee	<i>Tennessee Early Childhood Early Learning Developmental Standards</i> http://www.tennessee.gov/education/ci/earlychildhood/index.shtml	Birth to 5 years
Texas	<i>Prekindergarten Curriculum Guidelines</i> (2008) http://www.tea.state.tx.us/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=6581&libID=6593	3 to 5 years
Utah	<i>Prekindergarten Guidelines</i> (2006) http://www.schools.utah.gov/CURR/preschoolkindergarten/Home/PreKindergartenGuidelines.aspx	4-year-olds
	<i>Utah's Early Learning Guidelines</i> http://jobs.utah.gov/occ/occ2/forproviders/early_childhood.pdf	Birth to 3 years

State	ELG Name and Web Site	ELG Age Range
Vermont	<i>Vermont Early Learning Standards Guiding the Development and Learning of Children Entering Kindergarten</i> (2003) http://education.vermont.gov/new/pdfdoc/pgm_earlyed/pubs/vels_03.pdf	3 to 5 years
	<i>Vermont's Framework of Standards and Learning Opportunities</i> (2000) http://education.vermont.gov/new/pdfdoc/pubs/framework.pdf	Includes pre-k to 4 th Grade
Virginia	<i>Virginia's Milestones of Child Development</i> (2008) http://www.earlychildhood.virginia.gov/documents/milestones.pdf	Birth to 5 years
Washington	<i>Washington State Early Learning and Development Guidelines: (2012)</i> http://www.del.wa.gov/publications/development/docs/guidelines.pdf	Birth through 3rd Grade
West Virginia	<i>West Virginia Early Learning Standards Framework: Content Standards and Learning Criteria for Pre-Kindergarten</i> (2003) http://www.wvdhhr.org/bcf/ece/earlycare/stateplan/07_09_attachments/attachment_5.2_wvelsf.pdf	3 to 5 years
	<i>West Virginia Early Learning Standards Framework: Infant Toddler</i> http://www.wvearlychildhood.org/resources/WV_Early_Learning_Standards_Framework_Infant_Toddler.pdf	Birth to 3 years
Wisconsin	<i>Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards</i> (2011) http://www.collaboratingpartners.com/documents/WMELSUPDATEELfinal_000.pdf	Birth to 1 st Grade
Wyoming	<i>Wyoming Early Childhood Readiness Standards</i> (2002) http://edu.wyoming.gov/Libraries/Standards/Standards_2003_Early_Childhood_Readiness.sflb.ashx	3 to 5 years