Racial Equity and QRIS in Washington State

Rachael Brown-Kendall
June 26, 2017
Setting the Stage
Focus on Equity

Washington’s Early Learning Advisory Council adopted the following questions:

- Is this policy, decision or practice good for kids, families and early learning educators of color?

- Do some kids, families and early learning educators benefit more or less than others?

- Do kids, families and early learning educators of color have access and, if not, why?

- What data and information is missing?

- Are there any unintended consequences?
The Early Start Act

Comprehensive early learning bill that wove equity and diversity throughout

- Standards Alignment
- Cultural Competency Standards
- Racial Equity
- Early Achievers Review Subcommittee
Washington’s Bold Goal

The Department of Early Learning’s goal is that 90% of children are ready for kindergarten by 2020, with race and family income no longer predictors of success.

In fall 2015, only 44.2 percent of Washington’s children demonstrated readiness for kindergarten on all six domains of development.
Stakeholder Engagement

Providing opportunities for all voices to be heard in the process

- Early Achievers Review Subcommittee
- Advancing Racial Equity work group
- Parent Advisory Group
- Indian Policy Early Learning Committee
- Community Partnerships
Communications

- Communications reviewed by partners
- Communications are in Plain Talk
- Images represent diverse groups
- All printed materials are translated
- Interpretation services available
Equity in QRIS Accountability and Rating

- Flexible rating process
- Standards without standardization
- Observations and records review

**Things to consider...**
...sources of evidence
...how do we acknowledge the richness and strengths of culturally and linguistically diverse settings
...are we offering the right supports
Improvement Supports: Staffing

- Reflect the community
- Accommodations for culturally and linguistically diverse participants
- Embed staff in communities

Languages represented by implementation teams:
- American Sign Language
- Arabic
- Cantonese
- Hindi
- English
- Korean
- Mandarin
- Oromo
- Russian
- Spanish
- Somali
- Tagalog
- Uzbek
- Vietnamese

Other languages are available through the use of an interpreter.
Improvement Supports: Resources

- Coaching
- Training
- Needs Based Grants
- Scholarships
- Extensions
Questions?

Rachael Brown-Kendall
Washington State Department of Early Learning
QRIS Administrator
Rachael.brown-kendal@del.wa.gov