

Delaware Early Childhood Council

2010 Work Plan to Advance Strategic Goals

- Strengthen governance and alignment of early childhood policies, programs, practices, standards, and financing that enhance outcomes and uniform oversight across state agencies, and expand collaborations with private and nonprofit partners and federal agencies.
 - Fully implement the revised governance structure and mandate to the Delaware Early Childhood Council and the IRMC as stipulated in code; include a year-end report on implementation in the Council's annual report
 - Initiate improvements in the system of policy communications, planning, and management among early childhood state agencies, those served by those agencies, private and nonprofit institutions providing early childhood services, and K-12 education.
 - Plan and initiate a statewide early childhood needs assessment that is based on a model that reflects the standards as defined by the ECC's mission statement
 - Plan and initiate a workforce and compensation analysis that includes evaluation of the impact of workforce and compensation conditions on the quality of and access of early childhood services available to all Delaware families
 - Develop and disseminate policy briefs on key early childhood policy alignment and program improvement issues

- Integrate service delivery across agencies and sectors to address the developmental needs of all young children and their families, especially those placed at risk because of developmental delays, poverty, neglect or abuse, and other risk factors.
 - Conduct and scale up the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment so that it provides a comprehensive and reliable measure of developmental outcomes and preparation for school success,
 - Initiate programs to strengthen communication between early childhood providers and agencies on factors impacting service delivery
 - Survey districts, family support organizations, early childhood programs, and county early childhood councils to determine current collaborations to support readiness for and transitions to kindergarten
 - Initiate regular meetings for districts, early childhood programs, and community partners interested in collaborating on strengthening support to young children and their families

- Enhance the State's data and information system to fully incorporate early childhood, and use that system as well as periodic analysis of programs, policies, and outcomes to monitor and improve state services, inform and assist private service providers and schools, and enable policymakers to identify what is working and what is needed.
 - Collaborate with the P-20 Council, the IRMC's Interagency Early Childhood Working Group, and K-12 information systems group to develop a shared vision of an integrated early childhood data system that is linked with the K-12 data system.
 - Complete initial planning for an integrated data system

- Establish and coordinate a statewide, cross-sector early childhood professional development system that includes partnerships with K-12 education, higher education, business, and community institutions and that enables all early childhood providers to participate in affordable, high quality professional development.
 - Convene Higher Education Committee to improve alignment of higher education programs with the early learning foundations and early childhood competencies
 - Develop proposals for strengthening statewide, cross-sector early childhood professional development.

- Enable early childhood providers to achieve and sustain increasing levels of quality as defined by appropriate early childhood standards, including the State's early learning guidelines, child care licensing regulations, Delaware Stars for Early Success, and national accreditation standards.
 - Review and address impediments to implementing quality standards and propose options for overcoming those impediments, thereby enabling providers to achieve and sustain increasing levels of quality.

- Improve the alignment and efficient use of early childhood funding across agencies and increase public financing to meet the true cost of quality early childhood services for all families across all geographic locations, socio-economic groups, and child ability levels; this includes adequate compensation and tiered reimbursement to all qualified providers, the full financing of Delaware Stars, increasing subsidies to low-income families, and integrated funding of Delaware's early childhood programs with elementary education.
 - Design and implement a new and improved website for the Early Childhood Council that serves as an on-going, interactive communication tool with the early childhood community
 - Expand and strengthen the early childhood network including partnerships with the Wilmington Early Care and Education Council, Sussex Early Childhood Council, Delaware Association for the Education of Young children, Delaware Coalition for Early Learning, United Way of Delaware, Family Support Coordinating Council, Delaware School Districts, Charters and Private Schools, and Vision 2015
 - Develop Early Childhood Council policy and procedures manual