



Strengthening Early Success: Building Our Future Together

2020-2025 Vision
Executive Summary



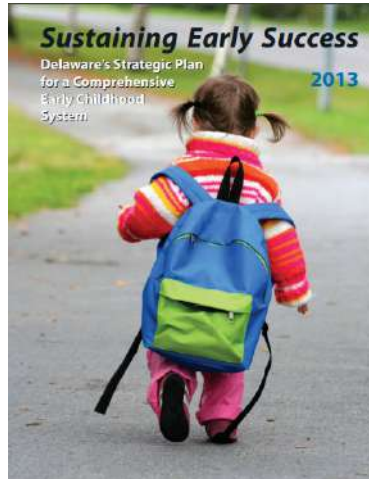
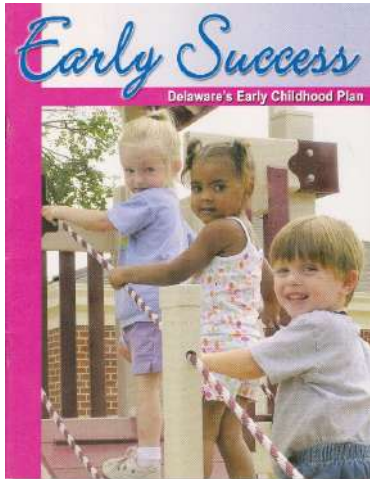
Delaware Early Childhood Council



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Early Childhood Council Strategic Plan Timeline



**State receives
federal
Preschool
Development
Grant—Birth to
5 grant for
needs
assessment and
planning**



Accomplishments

Celebrating the Work of *Sustaining Early Success Plan*

We recognize and applaud the essential industries that supported families with young children during the COVID-19 health crisis; health care, early childhood care and education, child welfare, and many other support systems went above and beyond. Creative approaches like telehealth and online learning activities have sustained families and helped build resilience.

GOAL 1

A Healthy Start for All Children

- Developmental screening options available online and via phone for all families with children 0-5
- Common statewide home visiting referral form to simplify families accessing services
- Project LAUNCH furthers support on mental health and wrap around supports
- Adopted policy on suspension and expulsion
- Healthy Steps pilot of integrated pediatric well visits including parenting, mental health, and intensive screenings
- Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Service scaled and sustained statewide

GOAL 2

High-Quality Early Childhood Programs and Professionals

- Expansion of Early Head Start- Child Care Partnership statewide to increase access to quality care for children 0-3
- Early Childhood Teacher Academy career technical education pathway launched in high school with opportunity for credit articulation and certification
- \$tand by Me financial coaching provided to early childhood workforce and families
- Expansion of T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Delaware scholarship to serve CDA, AA, and BA candidates
- Expansion of Child Care WAGES® Program salary supplement to increase support retention

GOAL 3

An Aligned and Effective Early Learning System, B-3rd Grade

- Statewide Kindergarten Registration and Readiness Campaign launched reaching thousands of families
- Early Learner Survey tool used to observe every kindergarten student at the start of school
- State inclusion guide released with practices and guidelines for all providers
- Mychildde.com family awareness portal and provider resource hub launched

GOAL 4

Sustained System Improvement

- Office of Child Care Licensing moved to Department of Education to consolidate governance of early childhood across agencies and divisions
- Increased state investments in quality care through increased Purchase of Care child care subsidy rates and increased tiered reimbursement to support quality

Guiding Principles



EQUITY

- Equitably serving all children and targeting development, language, resource, and/or family needs
- Serving all families with a focus on diversity, equity and inclusion



MULTI-GENERATIONAL SUPPORT

- Supported and affirmed families
- Professionals act as partners with families in their children's growth and development
- Serving and engaging families as their children's first teacher and as the foundation for children's success
- Child care options make sense for families' everyday lives



WHOLE-CHILD SUPPORT

- Serving the whole-child's needs and those of their families—physical, mental, emotional, cognitive, behavioral
- Building protective factors with families: parental resilience, social connections, concrete support in times of need, knowledge of parenting and child development, and social and emotional competence of children



EVIDENCE-BASED

- Strategies are based on robust brain science research, which emphasizes investing early to enable a strong, healthy start



COHESION

- Connected health and education systems across birth-8 programs and services
- United and supportive professionals who serve families
- Mixed delivery system to meet families' diverse needs

Vision for Delaware's Early Childhood System

Delaware commits to **all children and families** having access to an **integrated early childhood system**, from birth-8, which provides **high-quality programs and services** and an environment that supports their growth, development, and learning, and prepares them for **success in school and life**.

To achieve this vision, we must commit to integrating the State's birth-8 health and education systems.

Though it may take beyond 2025 to achieve this vision, we must begin now.

Framework

For Recommendations to Achieve Our Vision for 2025 and Beyond

Early childhood care and education is a public good that every child deserves. **Whole child learning starts at birth.**



ACCESS TO HOLISTIC SERVICES

Support Families in Meeting and Advocating for Children's Needs
Meet Children's Health, Mental Health, Developmental and Educational Needs

NAVIGATE A SIMPLE SYSTEM

Integrate Governance
Integrate Data Systems
Increase Financial Investments in Professionals, Programs, and Services



ACCESS TO HIGH QUALITY PROGRAMS

Support Increased Child Care Quality and Capacity
Support Families in Finding the Right Program Fit
Increase Financial and Geographic Access to Quality



PARTNERSHIPS WITH PROFESSIONALS

Support and Develop Early Childhood as a Profession
Achieve Culturally and Linguistically Responsive, Inclusive Practices
Increase Compensation and Build Systems of Support



Initiatives Underway

What momentum is underway that we can build upon?



NAVIGATE A SIMPLIFIED SYSTEM



- More resources centralized within Department of Education, including Child Care Licensing and quality dollars
- Centralized DEEDs and Delaware First professional certification system
- Stars standards revision and alignment with licensing regulations



PARTNER WITH PROFESSIONALS



- Statewide professional development system adopted more topics in new formats
- Pilot cohort model for Child Development Associate (CDA) credential attainment with classroom coaching



ACCESS TO HIGH QUALITY PROGRAMS



- Cost of Quality study to understand the cost of care
- Inclusion specialist pilot underway to support special education children's needs
- Stars redesign underway



ACCESS TO HOLISTIC SERVICES



- Common kindergarten registration system online statewide development underway
- Developmentally appropriate Kindergarten Academy tools for communities to use with support from Readiness teams
- Expanding Healthy Steps integrated pediatric visit pilot
- Assessing opportunities to expand home visiting

Measures of Success

We have an aspirational, long-term vision for Delaware’s children and families



ACCESS TO HOLISTIC SERVICES

- All families can access health insurance
- All families can access physical health and mental health services
- All families can access paid family leave
- Increased public awareness and voter demand for public investment in early childhood



ACCESS TO HIGH QUALITY PROGRAMS

- All families can access affordable child care and home visiting
- State invests public funding in only high quality programs
- Streamlined, research-based standards for programs



PARTNER WITH PROFESSIONALS

- Higher qualification requirements and early childhood professional wages approaching pay parity with K-12 educators
- Early childhood is treated as a profession which attracts a strong workforce
- Increased workforce retention
- Programs are linguistically, culturally responsive and inclusive by design



NAVIGATE A SIMPLIFIED SYSTEM

- Streamlined governance supports efficient, family-and child-oriented services and program design
- Families access the resources to support their children through one user-friendly platform
- Data systems connect families to professionals to ensure access to needed programs and services

Delaware Early Childhood Council Partners

Campaign for Grade Level Reading (CGLR)	Fund for Women, Delaware Community Foundation
Child Development Watch (CDW)	GIFT
Child Find	Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC)
Children and Families First (CFF)	Help Me Grow 211
Delaware Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics	Home Visiting Advisory Board (HVAB)
Delaware Afterschool Network	KIDSCOUNT
Delaware Association of School Administrators (DASA)	Montessori Teachers Association of Delaware
Delaware Association for the Education of Young Children (DEAEYC)	Nemours
Delaware Business Roundtable Education Committee	Nursery Kindergarten Association of Delaware
Delaware Department of Education (DDOE or DOE)	Office of Child Care Licensing (OCCL)
Delaware Division of Libraries	Office of Early Learning (OEL)
Delaware Head Start Association (DHSA)	Office of the Governor
Delaware Chief School Officers Association (DCSOA)	PNC Bank
Delaware Institute for Arts Education (DiAE)	Prevent Child Abuse Delaware (PCAD)
Delaware General Assembly	Privately Owned Child Care Business Owners
Delaware Readiness Teams	Project LAUNCH
Delaware State Board of Education (DSBE)	Rodel
Delaware State Education Association (DSEA)	Stand By Me
Delaware Head Start Collaboration Office	State of Delaware P-20 Council
Delaware Technical Community College (DTCC)	Sussex County Early Childhood Council (SCECC)
Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families (DSCYF)	United Way of Delaware (UW)
Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS)	University of Delaware (UD)/Delaware Stars for Early Success (DE Stars) and Delaware Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood (DIEEC)
Early Childhood Comprehensive System/COIIN	
Family Services Cabinet Council (FSCC)	Vision Coalition
First Lady Tracey Quillen Carney – First Chance Initiative	Wilmington Early Care and Childhood Council (WECEC)
Fresh Start Foundation	Workforce Development Board

Council Members

- Madeleine Bayard, Chair
- Heidi Beck, Delaware Head Start Association
- Kim Brancato, Appoquinimink School District
- Matthew Burrows, Appoquinimink School District
- Cheryl Clendaniel, The Learning Center
- Karen Derasmo, Prevent Child Abuse Delaware
- Ed Freel, University of Delaware
- Olivia Gatewood, JP Morgan Chase & Co
- Rena Hallam, University of Delaware
- Representative Debra Heffernan
- Julie Johnson, former center director and school board member
- Representative Quinn Johnson
- Gabriela Kejner, Department of Health and Social Services
- Kimberly Krzanowski, Office of Early Learning, Department of Education
- Clara Martinez, Children and Families First Head Start
- Tanisha Merced, parent
- Carette Monsanto, Miss Monique Child Care
- Mary Moor, Department of Services for Children, Youth & Their Families
- Kirsten Olson, Children and Families First
- Lee Pachter, Christiana Care
- Mike Quaranta, Delaware State Chamber of Commerce
- Karyl Rattay, Department of Health and Social Services
- Elizabeth Ritchie, Delaware Technical Community College
- Lucinda Ross, St. Michael's School and Nursery
- Katherine Rudolph, Christiana Care
- Meredith Seitz, Department of Services for Children, Youth & Their Families
- Michelle Shaivitz, Delaware Association for the Education of Young Children
- Debra Taylor, Head Start Collaboration Office, Department of Education, Office of Early Learning
- Betty Gail Timm, Office of Child Care Licensing
- Kelli Thompson, Nemours Children's Health System
- Rebecca Vitelli, Colonial School District
- Michelle Wall, School Board, Appoquinimink School District
- Meghan Walls, Division of Behavioral Health, Nemours/Al duPont Hospital for Children
- Michelle Wilson, Capital School District



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