



State Early Childhood Development Coordinating Council (SECDCC)

Council Briefing
January 2015

Background

- SECDCC was legislatively created in March 2011 pursuant to the Pre-K Enhancement and Expansion Act of 2008 to improve collaboration and coordination among entities carrying out federally funded and District- funded Pre-K and other early childhood programs.



Functions

- Improve school readiness.
- Assist in the planning and development of a comprehensive early childhood education system that serves children from birth to 8 years of age.
- Comply with the Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act, approved December 12, 2007.



Vision

All young children and families in the District of Columbia will receive the necessary supports and services from birth to age 8 to be ready to learn and develop successfully.

Mission

To support and advocate for policies and practices to ensure a comprehensive early childhood education and development system for infants, toddlers, and young children by improving collaboration and coordination among agencies and community partners in the District of Columbia in order for all children and families to thrive.



District's Early Learning Strategic Plan

The following goals drive the District's system building work:

- All District **Children**, birth through age 8 will develop in comprehensive and enriching environments.
- All **Families** of children, birth through age 8, are linked to opportunities and resources that strengthen their role as parents.
- **Professionals** working with young children have the knowledge, skills, and supports to work effectively with and on behalf of children and families.
- All **Communities** (neighborhoods in all Wards of the District of Columbia) are safe places where resources are available to help children and families thrive.



District's Early Learning Strategic Plan

To meet these goals, the District's early learning plan is built on six key strategies:

- Enhance the District's Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS), Going for the Gold.
- Expand Infant and Toddler Capacity and Quality.
- Create Health and Early Childhood Education Linkages.
- Implement Sustainable Pre-K to 3rd Grade Approaches.
- Develop and Utilize a Comprehensive Early Childhood Data System.
- Produce citywide and neighborhood level school readiness data and maps.



Current Status of SECDCC Activities

In order to meet the goals of the committee and the early learning needs of the District, SECDCC established the following committees:

- Quality Rating and Improvement System
- Professional Development *
- Health and Well- Being
- Early Childhood Assessment Data (KEA/ EDI)
- Communications and Public/ Private Partnerships*

** To date have not met, Assistant Superintendent of Early Learning at OSSE commits to staffing the SECDCC and the committees to ensure cross sector and public/ private representation.*



Quality Rating System Committee

- Proposed revision to the quality rating framework.
- Proposed revision to the child care licensing regulations.
- Submitted a federal grant for Early Head Start child care partnerships.



Health and Well- Being Committee

- Building on the recommendations from the Creating Community Solutions Early Intervention and Prevention Team to conduct a broadly- focused public awareness campaign.
- Working with Home Visiting Council to create a coordinated system of targeted home visitation.



Early Childhood Assessment Data (KEA/ EDI)

- Advise on activities that facilitate the implementation of the Kindergarten Entrance Assessment (KEA) in the district.
- Serve as the local advisory committee for the Enhanced Assessment Grant (EAG) K-3 Consortium.
- Plays a critical role in planning for the use of the EDI in the District in Pre-K later this year.



Recommendations Moving Forward

- Ensure implementation of the Early Learning Data System to support program planning and accountability.
- Strengthen the infrastructure of OSSE's Division of Early Learning (DEL).
- Maintain and build on current subsidy and facility improvement investments to expand and enhance the quality of care for infants and toddlers in the District.
- Implement the EDI in all pre-k four year old classrooms across the city.
- Continue a strong commitment to a mixed delivery system of Pre-K.
- Develop a policy on the purpose and use of the KEA.

