

District of Columbia Early Childhood Advisory Council



District of Columbia Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC)

Background:

- Required by Section 642 B(b)(1)(A)(i) of the Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007.
- Established by Mayor Adrian M. Fenty, Executive Order 2010-68, May 14, 2010.

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District of Columbia Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC)

- Serves as official state advisory council on early childhood education and care for children from birth to school entry.
- Administrative support provided by the State Superintendent of Education and the Office of the State Superintendent of Education.

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Head Start Act: Purpose of ECAC

- To lead the development of a high quality, comprehensive system of early childhood education and care
- To ensure statewide coordination and collaboration among the wide array of early childhood programs and services in the State
- To advance the goal of integrated services to young children and families

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Head Start Act: Membership

In addition to the State Director for Head Start Collaboration, the Council will include a representative of:

- the State agency responsible for child care
- the State educational agency
- local educational agencies

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Head Start Act: Membership cont.

A representative of:

- Institutions of higher education in the State
- Local providers of early childhood education and development services
- Head Start agencies located in the State, including migrant and seasonal Head Start programs and Indian Head Start programs

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Head Start Act: Membership Cont.

A representative of:

- the State agency responsible for programs under section 619 or part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Act
- the State agency responsible for health or mental health care
- Other entities determined relevant by the Mayor

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Three Year Strategic Plan

- ECAC will engage in a series of studies targeting needs unique to the District
- Priority areas for studies:
 - Children with Special Needs
 - Infant & Toddler Services
 - Workforce & Professional Development
 - Capacity Building

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Three Phase Cycle

- Phase I: Study of Priority Area
 - Partner with research organization to conduct study
 - Assess current need and capacity of the District
 - Catalogue national best practices
 - Identify barriers to and opportunities for collaboration and coordination

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Three Phase Cycle (cont.)

- Phase II: Recommendations
 - Develop recommendations based on study findings
 - Conduct roundtable to engage Business and Philanthropic communities
 - Collect input from service providers and community stakeholders

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Three Phase Cycle (cont.)

- Phase III: Three Pronged Communications Strategy
 - Transmit recommendations to the Mayor and issue a press release
 - Engage service providers and partner organizations
 - Hold a community forum for the public

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