Early Childhood Policy Council
November 16, 2020 Meeting
Annual Report
ECPC Annual Report

Purpose

• Advise the Governor, the Legislature, and the Superintendent of Public Instruction on statewide early learning and care policy.

• Prepare a formal public annual report.

• Provide specific recommendations on all aspects of the state’s early childhood system, including
  • equity;
  • accountability;
  • opportunities; and
  • ways the MPELC and BRC can be updated/improved.
Annual Report Development Approach

1. Review and compile recommendations from previous ECPC meetings and interviews
2. Incorporate additional recommendations from the November 16, 2020 meeting
3. Package ECPC recommendations into a final report
4. Submit final report to the Governor’s Office, Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Legislature
Thematic Recommendation Categories

• Equity
• Coordinated Systems
• Whole Child/Whole Family
• Family Engagement
• Workforce Development
• Access to Information
• Access to Services
• Funding
Equity

• Must take a systemic approach in addressing inequities, including those affecting specific child populations, provider wages, and the distribution of resources based

• Must address biases that exist in data collection tools and approaches in ELC-related research

• Must address systemic and institutional racism

• Must connect equity-driven solutions to sustainable funding
Whole Child/Whole Family

• Must involve a multi-system approach and address issues of equity for children, families, and providers

• Must provide (through ELC system) comprehensive supports for cognitive, social, emotional, nutritional, residential, and mental health needs of children and families
Coordinated Systems

• Must align services across systems to ensure continuity of care

• Must coordinate services for children and families through state-level and local partnerships to support the whole child

• Need a system that supports transitions from pre-k to kindergarten

• Must build a strong, cohesive system that clearly defines and measures system outcomes through integrated data systems

• Need statewide COVID response coordination
Family Engagement

• Parents are partners, co-teachers, and first teachers and must be dignified as such.

• System must be multigenerational, culturally responsive, and honor the expertise of parents.

• Parents and families must be engaged to provide recommendations and inform decision-making.
Workforce

• Prepare providers to employ best practices and understand developmental milestones, emotional development, and relationship-building to serve the diverse needs of children.

• Ensure consistency in what’s required and expected of providers.

• Create and strengthen career pathways for new and experienced providers.

• Invest in partnerships with community colleges and institutions of higher education.
Access to Information

• Strategies to increase access to families must include in-person and technology-based approaches.

• Information needs to be developed consistently and delivered clearly.

• Strategies to share information to home-based providers must be enhanced.

• Providers need better access to information about available resources and to support networks with other providers.

• Guidance must increase regarding appropriate amounts of screen time, social isolation, and learning loss.
Access to Services

• Income eligibility requirements should be revised to increase access.

• Access to mental health services is vital for families and providers.

• Vulnerable populations should be elevated for additional attention and care.

• Support for vulnerable families should take a strength-based approach.
Funding

• Funding strategy must take an equity-based approach to comprehensively fund what children, families, and providers need to thrive

• Compensation—livable wage for educators—is foundational

• Funding mechanism must provide sustainable supports for child care providers to enhance quality
Thematic Recommendation Categories (2)

- Equity
- Coordinated Systems
- Whole Child/Whole Family
- Family Engagement
- Workforce Development
- Access to Information
- Access to Services
- Funding
Annual Report Development Approach (2)

Review and compile recommendations from previous ECPC meetings and interviews

Incorporate additional recommendations from the November 16, 2020 meeting

Package ECPC recommendations into a final report

Submit final report to the Governor’s Office, Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Legislature