

Taking Stock: 2022



Strengthening Early Success: Building Our Future Together

2020-2025
Vision



Delaware Early Childhood Council

Council Leadership Committees and Chairs

★ **Kirsten Olsen**,
Children and Families First
★ **Meghan Walls**,
Nemours
✳️ Staff: Amber Shelton, OEL, DDOE



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

★ **Madeleine Bayard**,
Rodel
✳️ Staff: John Fisher-Klein, OEL, DDOE

★ **Melanie Thomas-Price**, Leap of Faith Child Care
★ **Kimberly Bryda**, Little Caboose Child Care
✳️ Staff: Takeisha Edmonds, OEL, DDOE




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

★ **Rena Hallam**,
University of Delaware
★ **Lucinda Ross**, St. Michael's School
✳️ Staff: Kelly McDowell, OEL, DDOE



EARLY CHILDHOOD INCLUSION
Serving all families with a focus on equity and inclusion in natural settings
Increasing access to special service providers and early intervention

★ **Kim Brancato**
✳️ Staff: Cindy Brown, OEL, DDOE



Access to Holistic

Recommendation	2022 Progress toward Goal
Expand family leave to all families through employee based, tax pool model	✓ Paid Family Medical Leave legislated statewide
Enhance access to Medicaid and insurance for pregnant and postpartum women	✓ Medicaid reimbursement beginning for home visiting ✓ Coverage for women for 12 months postpartum legislated ✓ Doula care Medicaid coverage required
Expand existing home visiting system to include universal, voluntary tiered home visiting services	✓ Nurse Family Partnership expansion in New Castle County
Leverage family service coordinators and community health workers to support families	✓ Community Health Worker model implemented through home visiting programs to support case management and wrap around needs



Access to High Quality Programs

Recommendation	2022 Progress toward Goal
Simplify the number of and increase the quality standards -- particularly focused on educators, leaders and interactions for learning -- through the Stars Quality Rating and Improvement System and State pre-k (ECAP) requirements	✓ Department of Education leading process underway to propose changes in 2023
Increase state investment to reimburse all programs based on the cost of quality care	✓ State rate increase to 85% of the 75 th percentile and moving toward cost of care methodology ✓ Department of Health and Social Services leading process to update rates for children with special needs
Invest in universal, mixed delivery pre-k for all 3-and 4-year olds (school based, itinerant services, Head Start, community-based organizations, small businesses)	✓ Funding increase to Redding Pre-K for Wilmington families ✓ DIEEC and DDOE piloting Family Child Care Networks



Partnerships with Professionals

Recommendation	2022 Progress toward Goal
Establish individual licensure requirement and registry for professionals	✓ DDOE building professional registry
Prioritize and invest in high-need areas through scholarships, alternative routes to certification strategies , and other models	✓ DSU building scholarship and support program at Early Childhood Innovation Center ✓ DDOE developing workforce plan including alternative pathways ✓ CDA cohorts launched
Redesign preparation programs to meet the needs of the current and future workforce– include coaching, cohort support, flexible programming , and stackable credentials	
Elevate compensation of early childhood professionals to K-12 educator and specialist levels in tandem with increased qualification requirements	✓ One time workforce bonus provided in 2022 ✓ Compensation scale established



Navigate a Simple System

Recommendation	2022 Progress toward Goal
Streamline regulations structuring early childhood programs and services, including Stars, licensing, and health	✓ Department of Education leading process underway to propose changes in 2023
Develop single data system to track registration and attendance for all ECCE settings, including a common statewide kindergarten enrollment system--all children are provided a unique identifier from birth-12th grade so programs and professionals can support children's needs	✓ Statewide online public school registration system launched fall 2022
Create single workforce data system that maintains educator licensure data (including qualification, professional development, and demographic data) across programs and services	✓ DDOE building professional registry
Invest in mixed delivery early childhood programs at least at the level of public, K-12 education to ensure optimal early development	✓ Cost of care tool established to estimate the cost of state requirements and cost of quality




Early Childhood Inclusion Committee

Recommendation	2022 Progress toward Goal
<p>Ensure health and safety regulations are in place to protect all children regardless of child care setting</p>	
<p>Expand developmental screening and early intervention services</p>	<p>HB 202 effective 7/1/23: DDOE designed plan using implementation science. <u>DDOE contracted with Project Coordinator: Jenny Grady</u> Creation of 2 teams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Core Implementation Team• State Implementation Team <p>Refer to DDOE website for latest information and updates: Developmental Screening Resources – Delaware Department of Education</p>
<p>Provide support to districts to improve inclusion practices</p>	<p>Targeted technical assistance from the <u>Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center</u> to examine beliefs, practices & opportunities to expand access through in-depth examination & work on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preschool LRE Reference Points and Discussion Prompts• Making Sound Preschool LRE Decisions <p>Based on these tools/resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preschool LRE Reference Points and Discussion Prompts• Making Sound Preschool LRE Decisions
<p>Align special education services</p>	<p>ECIC serves as the primary stakeholder group for the Annual Performance report for Indicator 6: EC settings and aligns its work with the Exceptional Children's Resource workgroup on LRE for school age students</p>

2023 DECC Priorities

- **Workforce:** Recruiting, supporting, and retaining early childhood professionals- including child care and home visitors—and implementing additional compensation strategies
- **Mental Health:** Strengthening integration of mental health into home visiting, child care, and elementary schools
- **Alignment:** Simplifying regulations across funding streams and programs that serve young children, including child care and pre-k programs
- **Access to Pre-k and Child Care:** Increasing and leveraging funding to provide access to families in public school and child care settings, including children with special needs and families statewide, and paying for the requirements established by the state based on the state cost of care tool
- **Home Visiting:** Integration of community health workers and mental health, exploring expansion opportunities



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PRIORITIES

1. DDOE ECE Quality Indicators



1. Streamline the administrative parts of the licensing monitoring process.
2. Create a continuum of support between licensing regulations and quality indicators.
3. Offer free technical assistance as programs work to open and towards improvement.

2. Elevate the Early Care and Education Profession

1. Support programs in paying higher wages per hour or supplements and offering benefits.
2. Simplify career pathways to recruit into the profession.
3. Offer scholarships and cohorts for ECCE professional learning.

3. Coordinate Care and Resources for Families

1. Accomplish program/professional goals to address program access and quality for families.
2. Make our online search for available child care easier.
3. Create menu of services for families **and** early care and education professionals to be able to make consistent referrals.

The Next 2 Years

Fall 2022	Where we are now	<p>Begin implementation of system infrastructure projects (Oct 2022)</p> <p>Use data to understand need Workforce data (Nov 2022) Updated landscape of child care market (Dec 2022)</p>
Winter 2023 Spring 2023	Planning and putting ideas into place	<p>Use evidence-based practice to drive decisions DOE workforce support plan (Jan 2023) ECAP/Redding RFP release (Jan 2023) DOE ECE Quality Indicators & Continuum of OCCL regulations and Quality Indicators* (Spring 2023) *= Implementation of QIS (Spring 2023)</p>
Summer 2023 Fall 2023 Winter 2024 Spring 2024	Trying out different ways of doing things	<p>Engage in continuous improvement cycles Feedback cycles throughout implementation of QIS (2023-2024) All types of programs licensed (Jul 2024)</p>
Summer 2024	Committing to what worked	<p>Operate with an easier system infrastructure CCDF plan written to reflect easier system processes (Oct 2024)</p>

Join us, Sign Up and Take Action!



- 📄 Read the plan: tinyurl.com/DECCStrategicPlan and share with your networks!
- ✉️ Subscribe to the DECC email list and join our meetings and committees: tinyurl.com/DECCEmail
- 👥 Encourage our policymakers to increase investments in early childhood!



Delaware Early Childhood Council

<https://education.delaware.gov/community/governance/committees-and-task-forces/>





APPENDIX

For Reference – 2021 Stock Take Slides



Access to Holistic

Recommendation	2021 Progress toward Goal
Mandate universal birth through age 8 screenings connected to intervention services and resources for all	HB 202 requires screening in child care settings
Expand family leave to all families through employee based, tax pool model	SB 1 introduced, fund established
Integrate behavioral health services into pediatric care settings	Nemours Health Steps pilot underway
Enhance access to Medicaid and insurance for pregnant and postpartum women	New legislation passed around expanding Medicaid to moms postpartum up to one year
Expand existing home visiting system to include universal, voluntary tiered home visiting services	Potential to use ARP funds Establishment of Medicaid reimbursement underway



Access to High Quality

Recommendation	2021 Progress toward Goal
Simplify the number of and increase the quality standards -- particularly focused on educators, leaders and interactions for learning -- through the Stars Quality Rating and Improvement System and State pre-k (ECAP) requirements	SR 55 requires simplification of standards across programs Epilogue requires higher standards for ECAP contracts
Increase state investment to reimburse all programs based on the cost of quality care	Cost of Quality Calculator due March 2022 (epilogue)
Invest in universal, mixed delivery pre-k for all 3-and 4-year olds (school based, itinerant services, Head Start, community-based organizations, small businesses)	200 additional ECAP slots funded



Partnerships with Professionals

Recommendation	2021 Progress toward Goal
Revise the state-based career pathways to include stackable credentials through a competency-based system	SCR 36 requires DOE and DECC to issue compensation scale and professional pathway
Establish individual licensure requirement and registry for professionals	WELS system anticipated to launch 2022
Over time, and with increased compensation and support, require higher standards of education and degrees in early childhood	DOE endorses CDA as requirement for child care professionals by 2028 + adoption of Power to the Profession
Increase requirements for teaching literacy in teacher certification for ages birth through 8	SB133 requires science of reading in all educator prep programs



Navigate a Simple

Recommendation	2021 Progress toward Goal
Consolidate governance of programs, services and funding; coordinate funding to improve service delivery and create a unified family experience	SB 136 moved Part C to DOE by 2023
Streamline regulations structuring early childhood programs and services, including Stars, licensing, and health	SCR 55 addresses early learning standard streamlining
Develop single data system to track registration and attendance for all ECCE settings, including a common statewide kindergarten enrollment system--all children are provided a unique identifier from birth-12th grade so programs and professionals can support children's needs	SB82 requires single enrollment system for public schools; pilot underway
Create single workforce data system that maintains educator licensure data (including qualification, professional development, and demographic data) across programs and services	WELS system anticipated to launch 2022



Early Childhood Inclusion Committee

Recommendation	2021 Progress toward Goal
Ensure health and safety regulations are in place to protect all children regardless of child care setting	SB169
Expand developmental screening and early intervention services	HB 202
Provide support to districts to improve inclusion practices	ECTA engaged to provide statewide training
Align special education services	SB136 moves Part C; DOE hiring for transition manager

2021-22 Priorities

FY23 Budget Priorities *(based on Council survey in August and September 2021)*

1. **Increasing the Purchase of Care Rate (DHSS)** to the federal benchmark of (100% of) the 75th percentile of the market rate and funding child care based on enrollment not attendance, based on a 12 month eligibility period as required by the federal Administration for Children and Families
2. **Investing in the Child Care Workforce** and shoring up retention (**DDOE**) with a priority on replacing the WAGE\$ compensation initiative, which was funded with state resources to provide stipends to educators who advanced their credentials and degrees and stayed in the field (this initiative was terminated July 1)
3. **Public School Pre-K Funding (DDOE)**, including lowering the teacher to child ratio for basic special education to align with the Quality Rating and Improvement System (Stars); funding typical peers to meet requirements of IDEA; funding Child Find; and funding children identified after the September 30 unit count
4. **Investing in early intervention (DDOE/DHSS)**, including services for Part C/Early Intervention families

Implementation of Legislation including focus on creating a child care workforce compensation scale, producing a cost of quality care calculator, moving Part C of IDEA to DOE, implementing common school registration process, issuing new regulations related to screening in child care and licensing for public and private schools, and expanding ECAP

Leverage ARP Funding to Support Implementation of our Plan and Recommendations, with priority on stabilizing the industry and supporting workforce recruitment and retention