

Early Childhood Recommendations: P-20 Council

The following early childhood recommendations have been developed to meet the needs of Kansas' young children and their families. They are based upon evidence and research. Governor Parkinson is requested to support specified statute changes, funding requests, early childhood initiatives and state agency early childhood programs that reinforce and enhance the early learning experiences of young children and the meaningful involvement of their families. The Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) and the Kansas Early Childhood Comprehensive System (KECCS) plan are critical infrastructure components for this early childhood work.

| Recommendation 1: Improve teacher and provider quality through coordination and collaboration at the state and local levels | |
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| In order to improve child care quality, promote educational opportunities and increase the quality of early learning opportunities, the Governor is requested to: | Support the removal of statute KSA65-517, 519 and other related changes to 65-501 et seq. Provide funding for more local inspectors so that all registered family day care homes can be inspected annually. Estimated 1st year funding: \$48,940 with continued funding: \$895,766 per year |
| | Support early childhood initiatives such as the Early Childhood Advisory Council that include the development of a statewide Professional Development system for early childhood teachers and providers |
| | Expect and support coordination and collaboration among early childhood programs in state agencies |
| | Support Institutes of Higher Education in aligning coursework to facilitate an increase in highly qualified early childhood teachers, teachers with a unified early childhood license, and administrators with a knowledge of early childhood |

| Recommendation 2: Promote coordination at the state and local levels to build a continuum of services and education from birth to grade three | |
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| In order to promote coordination that will build a continuum of services, birth to grade 3, the Governor is requested to: | Support coordination and collaboration among Institutes of Higher Education, state agencies, and early childhood leadership bodies (e.g. Children's Cabinet, Coordinating Council on Early Childhood Developmental Services, Early Childhood Advisory Council) |
| | Provide funding for an expansion of parent education programs such as Parents As Teachers (PAT) and home visiting programs including Early Head Start (EHS), Part C/early intervention, Healthy Families America. Estimated funding for PAT to be universally available at \$700 per child: \$54.6 M. Phase in over 5 years: \$10.9 M per year. To add in PAT for 3-5, partnering with preschool programs at \$500/child: \$30.5 M or \$6.1M/yr over 5 years. Estimated Funding for EHS: \$21.5 Million--Phased in over 5 years to serve 10% of eligible children and families at \$4.3 million each year. |
| | Support early childhood initiatives that promote a statewide data system to follow children as they progress through early childhood programs into kindergarten and beyond |
| | Provide funding for all day kindergarten: 1 FTE per child & support a change in statute 72-6407 (2) to allow for this funding change. Estimated funding: \$80 million. Phase in over 5 years at \$16 million each year. |

| Recommendation 3: Coordinate data collection and analysis and use results to change practice by promoting evidence-based practices | |
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| In order to promote coordination and use of data, the Governor is requested to: | Provide funding for the implementation and ongoing work of a registry for early childhood professional development. Estimated funding: \$75,000 for one staff person per year. Initial implementation cost covered by ARRA funding. |
| | Support the Children's Cabinet in its funding of the School Readiness annual evaluation and data collection process, using results to promote data-driven teaching practices, including an implementation framework for professional development |
| | Support state agencies in their work of developing evidence-based protocols and guidance for collaborative and cooperative work among agencies and organizations at the state and local levels, including the inclusion of children with disabilities |