

Status of State Advisory Councils on Early Education and Care

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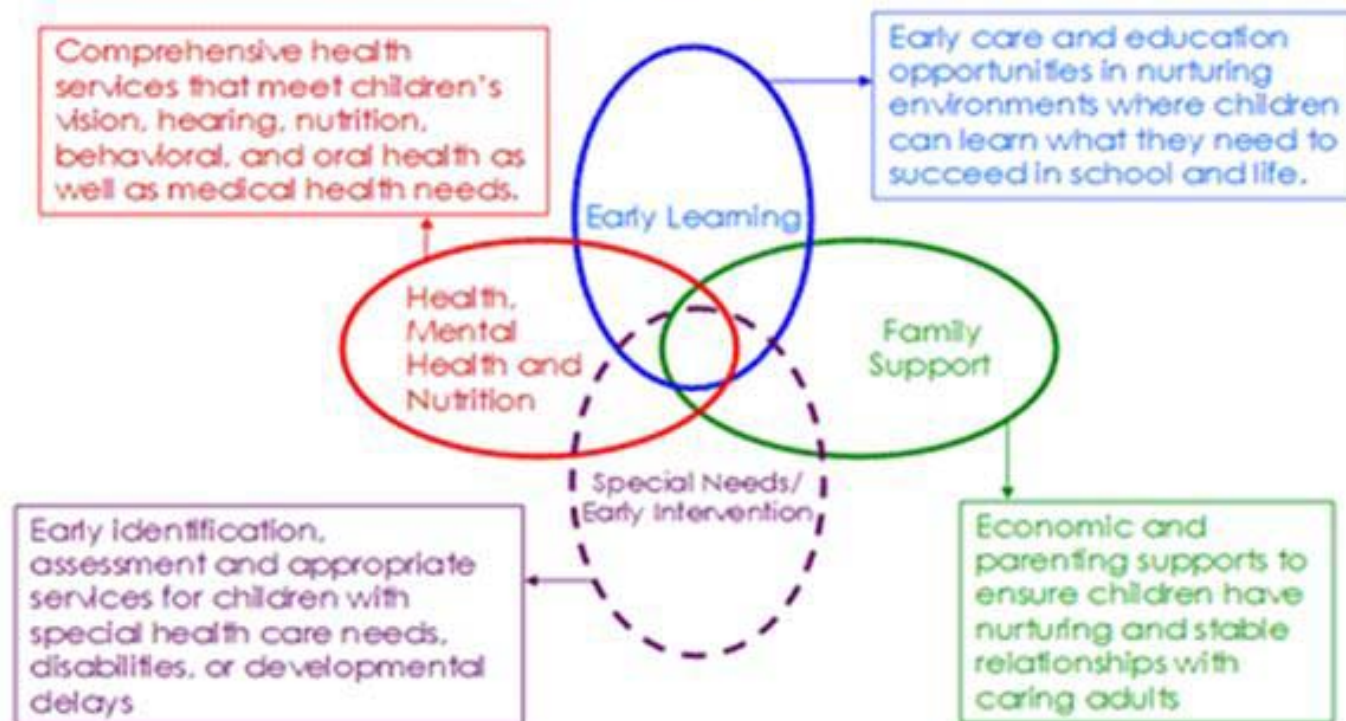
State Advisory Councils on Early Education and Care

- › Also known as Early Childhood Advisory Councils (ECACs)
- › Designated/established by the Governor
- › Overall responsibility:

“To lead the development or enhancement of a high-quality, comprehensive system of early childhood development and care that ensures statewide coordination and collaboration among the wide range of early childhood programs.”

Figure 1: State Early Childhood System

State Early Childhood System *Families Supported and Children Thriving*



National Early Childhood Systems Working Group

ECACs: Timeline

- › Part of Head Start Act (December 2007)
- › Received Funding as part of ARRA (“stimulus”) in February 2009
- › Guidelines Released by Dept. of HHS in June 2009
- › Applications Due August 1, 2010
- › Funding: \$100 million; minimum grants of \$500,000

ECACs: Who are its members?

> Required: Representatives from:

- » *State agency responsible for child care*
- » *State educational agency (SEAs)*
- » *Local educational agencies (LEAs)*
- » *Institutions of higher education*
- » *Local early ed and child development providers*
- » *Head Start agencies (inc. Migrant/Indian Head Start)*
- » *Director of Head Start Collaboration*
- » *State agency responsible for IDEA Part C*
- » *State agency responsible for health and mental health*

> Optional: Other representatives deemed relevant

ECACs: Where are we now?

- › **20** states have announced their ECAC
- › **29** states are in the process of developing their ECAC
- › **1** state has decided not to have an ECAC

ECACs: Where are we now?

- › **27** states have or will likely designate an *existing* council as the ECAC
- › **18** states have or will likely create a *new* council
- › **4** states are undecided if they will designate a new or existing council

ECACs: Challenges for States

- › Overcoming a sobering history of collaboration
- › Developing a shared statewide vision of of early childhood
 - » *PreK-Third*
- › Translating collaboration into *policy alignment*
- › Meeting the 30/70 match requirement

ECACs: Challenges for States (cont.)

- › Translating state-level developments into improvements at the local level
 - » *Local Advisory Councils?*
- › Sustaining the ECAC's work over time

Early Learning Challenge Fund

“Challenge states to develop effective, innovative models that promote high standards of quality and a focus on outcomes across early learning settings.”

- › **Quality Pathways Grants**
 - › *High capacity states with plans that show significant progress already*
- › **Development Grants**
 - › *States that show promise in developing early learning systems*

ELCG: Timeline

- › **Student Aid and Financial Responsibility Act (SAFRA) introduced July 2009**
- › **Passed the House on September 17, 2009**
- › **Currently awaiting consideration by Senate**
- › **Current funding authorization: \$8 billion over 8 years**

ELCG: What states (may) have to do

- › **Develop and/or reform early learning standards**
- › **Establish/enhance a statewide QRIS**
- › **Professional development**
- › **School readiness assessments**
- › **Longitudinal data system**

ELCG: What states (may) have to do (cont.)

- › Demonstrate commitment to building public-private partnerships
- › Dedicate future increases in state expenditures on early learning programs; maintenance of effort
- › *Coordinate efforts with the ECAC*

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