

# Common Ground

*Collaboration and shared leadership  
in systems serving Nebraska*

## SUMMARY:

**Nebraska Early Childhood Interagency  
Coordinating Council (ECICC) Biennial  
Report to the Governor 2022-2024**



## Overview

Early Childhood in Nebraska is elevated through the belief and practice that coordination and collaboration among programs and services are best for young children and their families. Every biennium, the Nebraska Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council (ECICC) submits a report to the Governor on the status of early childhood in our state, along with recommendations to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of services for young children and families. The full report can be found online at [education.ne.gov/ecicc/reports/](https://education.ne.gov/ecicc/reports/).

The five key area recommendations from the 2022-2024 Report are summarized below. Authentic collaboration reduces duplication of services, maximizes the use of available resources and creates greater accountability for public dollars.

## I: Quality

Young children who receive high quality programs and services have better development, health, and learning outcomes. Through ongoing expansion of early childhood efforts, more programs are now available to demonstrate an increase in the quality of all types of early childhood programs and services which are helping Nebraska's young children realize positive outcomes. (NAEYC Position Statement on Developmentally Appropriate Practice, <https://www.naeyc.org/resources/position-statements/dap/contents>)



### Recommendation

Continue to train professionals in early childhood programs in the knowledge and support of young children's growth and development using the seven domains of the Nebraska Early Learning Guidelines (ELG's) by distributing ELG's to home visitors, maternal/child health, child care food programs, and coordinate training among schools and child care provider networks using both in person and virtual options.

## II: Professional Development

By investing in ongoing professional development, early childhood programs can enhance the quality of their services and ultimately improve the lives of young children. The increased access to college coursework and high- quality continuing education and training expands the knowledge and expertise of providers, teachers, and caregivers. (<https://blog.kaplanco.com/early-childhood-professional-development-overview#>)



### Recommendation

Expand efforts of the Coach Collaborative Team to engage more programs and providers in the early childhood coach model by offering expanded access to Early Learning Connection Coordinators/Coach Consultants, and additional funding for early childhood initiatives to increase effective early childhood teaching.

## III: Early Learning Standards

Well-defined standards guide early childhood professionals in their practice. Teachers and caregivers benefit from consistent benchmarks and indicators and offer a way to communicate with their peers. Measuring progress of children's outcomes is more valid and reliable when assessed within a framework of complementary and aligned standards.

# About the Nebraska Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council

The ECICC offers a framework for aligning early childhood efforts and information related to public policy, state agency initiatives, funding, data resources, and barriers in service systems.

The Council serves as a statewide networking platform for early childhood stakeholders from public and private sector interests.

Its membership represents the Nebraska Legislature, state agencies, social service organizations, direct service providers, higher education, business interests and parents, among other stakeholders. Membership roles are determined by state and federal statutes.



## Recommendation

Support the use of the revised Early Learning Standards more widely in all early childhood programs and services by offering to all home visitation program providers and to higher education faculty for use in college curriculum coursework.

## IV: Early Childhood Data

Credible data resources are an integral part of a well-coordinated, viable early childhood infrastructure to strengthen accountability of public dollars, increase efficiency of programs, ensure fidelity in evaluation and guide strategies for more effective service models.



## Recommendation

Support the integration of data from multiple early childhood data systems to create meaningful tools to better inform early childhood systems, services and policies in Nebraska by integrating data from multiple agencies, build capacity of state agencies to use linked data to create a fully functional early childhood system in Nebraska.

## V: Coordination & Collaboration

Collaboration in early care and education helps build systems at the state, regional, and local levels. Working together results in higher quality and more efficient child and family-centered programs and services leading to better outcomes for young children and families. Nebraska's federal Preschool Development Grant (PDG) has been a major effort to realize authentic collaboration by addressing multi-tiered systems of support across all domains of early care and education.



## Recommendation

Enhance, align, and sustain strategies for a mixed-delivery system in early care and education across Nebraska by engaging local stakeholders, develop public/private partnerships, and explore innovative strategies to assist families' access to affordable, high quality early childhood programs.

**Nebraska Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council (ECICC)**

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