

## ECAC Strategic Plan 2020-2022: Goals and Objectives



**GOAL 1: The Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) strengthens its structures and capacity to provide strategic direction and formal recommendations to the Governor, while communicating to and engaging with its stakeholders and other agencies and organizations to ensure that every young child thrives in early childhood, particularly the most vulnerable populations.**

- ◆ **1-A:** The ECAC makes recommendations to the Governor's Office to inform and support policy, funding, and innovation that insures a comprehensive early childhood agenda.
- ◆ **1-B:** Operationalize the ECAC's commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion in all ECAC structures, strategies, and engagement with stakeholders across New York State.
- ◆ **1-C:** Promote a constant focus among New York State agencies to enhance system level policies, practices and collaborative activities that will ensure that every young child thrives in early childhood, particularly our most vulnerable populations.
- ◆ **1-D:** Enhance the ECAC's role as a communication hub for sharing information with members, New York State agencies, organizations, families and the general public, to ensure messages are received by all audiences.
- ◆ **1-E:** Convene an ECAC council for business leaders and philanthropists to inform economic, financing, and communication strategies for large scale system building, developing champions across New York State, and inviting significant investments in early childhood.

**Goal 2: Family engagement and leadership are strengthened and inform the ECAC's early childhood system-building effort**

- ◆ **2-A:** Expand and amplify parent voices within the ECAC, ensuring diverse representation.
- ◆ **2-B:** Encourage best practices in the field to elevate parent engagement and promote family choice in early care and education.
- ◆ **2-C:** All New York State agencies model best practices in family engagement and support.

**GOAL 3: All New York State ECCE programs and schools are prepared to provide young children and families with high quality settings and have supportive services and resources in place to improve quality.**

- ◆ **3-A:** Work to expand QUALITYstarsNY across the early childhood system, making it available to all providers who choose to participate.
- ◆ **3-B:** Informed by a parent and family advisory group, create materials to support parent choice of early childhood education programs, and disseminate widely using the ECAC website, Parent Portal and other vehicles to ensure all families have access to information

**GOAL 4: All system building efforts are informed by a whole child perspective that includes mental health, oral health and physical health as integral for high-quality early care and education programs.**

- ◆ **4-A:** Support the implementation of the Pyramid Model, a framework for teaching social and emotional skills to children, teachers, families and other staff that interact with children.
- ◆ **4-B:** Create partnership forums with the Office of Mental Health and the Department of Health to address ways the ECAC can support whole-child health strategies to meet needs.

**GOAL 5: An increased number of successful partnerships will further develop the mixed-delivery system for high-quality early care and education programs.**

- ◆ **5-A:** Learn from successful partnerships, actively support newly funded initiatives, and identify stakeholder interest for specific alignment opportunities, such as when children and families experience system transitions.
- ◆ **5-B:** Engage early childhood programs and agencies in pursuit of partnership opportunities.
- ◆ **5-C:** All families have knowledge and choice in high-quality early care and learning programs to meet their needs in health, education, mental health, disability, and family support.

**Goal 6: Comprehensive interdisciplinary strategies are in place to grow the workforce and to support children from birth through age five and their families.**

- ◆ **6-A:** Provide guidance and support for developmentally appropriate and culturally-responsive expectations for all professionals working in contexts with infants, toddlers and young children and their families.
- ◆ **6-B:** Look for opportunities across all state agencies and systems where successful early childhood workforce strategies can be adopted, integrated or hosted.

**GOAL 7: New York State's early childhood education workforce system, New York Works for Children, is fully implemented.**

- ◆ **7-A:** Support agreements to require the Aspire Registry for all ECCE programs to enhance practitioner's professional growth and program compliance.
- ◆ **7-B:** Offer strategies and recommendations to assure a system of competency-based workforce and professional development across all early care and education settings.
- ◆ **7-C:** Career Center satellites, and the Early Childhood Leadership Initiative satellites, are expanded to all 10 Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) regions in New York State to ensure access to success and career mobility for every member of the workforce.
- ◆ **7-D:** Support policies, practices and resources that improve access across New York State for the ECCE workforce to earn degrees and certifications and model best practice guidelines.

- ◆ **7-E:** Engage stakeholders to develop policies, practices and collaborative activities that align higher education and early childhood workforce development strategies and best practices.

**GOAL 8: Actionable short- and long-term strategies are in place to fund essential elements for New York State’s mixed-delivery system.**

- ◆ **8-A:** Develop and recommend strategies to fully fund the Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS).
- ◆ **8-B:** Analyze all allocated resources dedicated to young children in NYS to determine duplication, unmet need, and make new funding recommendations that include an emphasis on providing more responsive services to infants and toddlers.
- ◆ **8-C:** Continue collaborative efforts to develop concepts and white papers for innovative funding strategies, including issues addressing compensation for the early education workforce.
- ◆ **8-D:** Develop and recommend strategies to fully fund QUALITYstarsNY across New York State; ensuring that all children have access to high quality care and education.
- ◆ **8-E:** Develop and recommend funding strategies for enrollment in the Aspire Registry across New York State, and a three-year sustainability plan.
- ◆ **8-F:** Develop and implement an infrastructure of funding and support that incentivizes community partnerships and allows programs to blend and braid all applicable funding to increase access for all families.

**GOAL 9: An early childhood integrated data system is created for tracking service delivery, outcomes and system improvements to drive accountability, policy development, funding and best practices across New York State.**

- ◆ **9-A:** Support the development of an Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS) that tracks all children from birth regarding the services/supports they receive, the programs that provide the services, and the staff and administrators who work in those programs.
- ◆ **9-B:** Use newly available data to inform public policy, communications, and collaboration.

**GOAL 10: Research findings and evaluation results are used to recommend policy, statutory and regulatory changes, as well as structures and best practices to strengthen the NYS early childhood system.**

- ◆ **10-A:** Develop research and evaluation capacity to strengthen our ability to process and disseminate useful research, policy information and resources to inform recommendations and decisions.
- ◆ **10-B:** Provide guidance to agencies and individuals on methods and respond to requests for primary research on emerging issues.