

# Common Ground

*Collaboration and shared leadership in systems serving Nebraska's youngest children*

## SUMMARY:

**Nebraska Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council (ECICC)  
Biennial Report to the Governor 2016-2018**



## 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/](http://education.ne.gov/ecicc/reports/).

The five key area recommendations from the 2016-2018 report are summarized below. Many of these recommendations are being implemented through shared leadership among state agencies and in partnership with other statewide and local institutions and programs.

## I: Quality

Young children who receive high quality programs and services have better developmental, health, and learning outcomes. Through ongoing expansion of early childhood efforts, more programs are able to demonstrate an increase in quality.



### Recommendation

Train professionals in all early childhood programs in the knowledge and support of young children's growth and development using the seven domains of Nebraska's revised *Early Learning Guidelines*.

## II: Professional Development

The availability of a well-trained and educated early childhood professional directly correlates to quality of programs and services. Increased access to college coursework and high-quality continuing education and training expands the knowledge and expertise of providers, teachers, and caregivers.



### Recommendation

Expand efforts of the Coach Collaborative Team to engage more programs and providers in the early childhood coach model.

## 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 and other functions.

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.

## III: Early Learning Standards

Well-defined standards guide early childhood professionals in their practice. Measuring progress of children's outcomes is more valid and reliable when assessed within a framework of complementary and aligned standards.

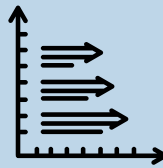


### Recommendation

Support the use of the revised *Early Learning Guidelines* more widely in all early childhood programs and services.

## IV: Early Childhood Data

Credible data resources are an integral part of a well-coordinated, viable early childhood infrastructure.



### 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.

## V: Coordination and Collaboration

Authentic collaboration in early care and education helps build systems at the state, regional, and local levels. Working together generally results in family-centered, higher quality and sustainable programs.



### Recommendation

Enhance, align and sustain strategies for a mixed-delivery system in early care and education across Nebraska.