
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

June 18, 2019



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA STATE BOARD MEETING — JUNE 2019

Meeting. The Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) State Board met on June 14, 2019, in Des Moines. The meeting opened with the introduction of new Board members and recognition of outgoing members.

Statewide Indicators. The Board provides support for five desired statewide results:

- Healthy Children
- Children Ready to Succeed in School
- Secure and Nurturing Families
- Safe and Supportive Communities
- Secure and Nurturing Early Learning Environments

As a result of feedback from ECI members, changes were recommended for indicators that measure the desired results above. Additional items were discussed, and future indicators may be added as work on the Iowa Integrated Data System (IDS) progresses and additional data becomes available. The Board unanimously approved the recommended changes.

Learning Opportunities. A presentation was given on the work being done involving the Iowa Early Learning Standards and Early Childhood Career Pathways [website](#). The need for professional development was emphasized, as was providing information to those involved in the early childhood workforce related to opportunities for career advancement. Free training and providing hard copies of the Iowa Early Learning Standards are both strategies being used as a starting point to build a statewide coaching system.

Preschool Development Grant. ECI was awarded a \$2.2 million Preschool Development Grant by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Education. ECI is using the grant to continue working with Iowa State University to develop the IDS to be able to do the following:

- Facilitate statewide needs assessments to identify gaps in current public service system networks.
- Enhance cross-system programming efforts.
- Broaden the ability to measure successful child outcomes in diverse and meaningful ways.
- Promote data-informed decisions.

Family focus groups and early childhood provider focus groups met in May. Analysis of the discussions from these groups and additional online survey results are currently being compiled. This information will be used in strategic planning during upcoming stakeholder planning sessions. The information will also be used to apply for additional grant funding, which is available for the next four years.

Next Meeting. The next meeting of the ECI State Board is scheduled for September 6, 2019.

LSA Staff Contact: Lora Vargason (515.725.2249) lora.vargason@legis.iowa.gov

1050214