

Building on Strong Foundations

The Early Childhood Advisory Council created goals in four areas that demonstrate a strong commitment to an early childhood system which is comprehensive and coordinated. Much has been done in Minnesota to lay a strong foundation that supports these goals and promotes the optimal growth and development of children and their families. Examples of legislation, policy, practice and programs follow.

Educational Preparation	Healthy Development	Strengthened Families	Governance, Access, and Finance
<p>Goal: All young children and their families in Minnesota have access to high quality education and care that assures they enter kindergarten ready to succeed</p>	<p>Goal: A full range of prevention, support, and intervention services (physical, mental, dental) are available to families in Minnesota to ensure their children’s healthy development from birth</p>	<p>Goal: All young children and their families in Minnesota have access to information, programs, and services that support safe, stable, living arrangements and nurturing relationships that provide a foundation for optimal child development</p>	<p>Goal: Minnesota’s young children and families are supported by a coordinated, comprehensive, and effective early childhood system</p>
<p>Work on development of a Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) began in 2006, when the Departments of Human Services and Education began a collaborative partnership with the Minnesota Early Learning Foundation (MELF) to launch the Parent Aware pilot.</p>	<p>Family Home Visiting Programs are offered in all 87 Minnesota counties through local health departments and tribal governments. Programs focus on families at greatest risk and foster healthy beginnings, improve pregnancy outcomes, promote school readiness, prevent child abuse and neglect, reduce juvenile delinquency,</p>	<p>Minnesota’s Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) parent education program began in 1974 and is now offered in all 335 school districts. In 2009-10 school year, more than 87,000 children and 89,000 parents attended weekly parent-child classes. Of these families 49 percent reported family</p>	<p>Minnesota’s Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems grant (MECCS) assists in building a multi-agency system by including in its planning, key public and private agencies that provide services supporting the healthy physical, social, and emotional development of children.</p>

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<p>School Readiness Connections (SRC) was a pilot program operational from July 1, 2007-June 30, 2011 provided incentives to providers who received high rating under the QRIS.</p> <p>Facilities improvement funds, first available in 1992, allocated funds support Early Childhood Learning and Child Protection Facilities in construction or rehabilitation of facilities. While funds have been variable; the most recent allocation awarded in 2011 is \$1,900,000.</p> <p>Legislation and fund allocation support the development and implementation of a career planning resource center. Web-based materials have been developed by the Minnesota Center for Professional Development (MNCPD) including a Registry, Career Lattice, Trainer and</p>	<p>promote positive parenting and resiliency in children, and promote family health and economic self-sufficiency for children and families. The Statewide Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) makes recommendations on nutrition, physical activity, tobacco use and healthy weight. It is coordinated by MDH and implemented by Community Health Boards and Tribal governments. SHIP received 47 million in appropriations for July 2009-June 2011 and 15 million for July 2011-June 2013. The program encourages community health boards to choose strategies that target their most needy populations and interventions that specifically target child care programs.</p> <p>The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity Program (CDC NPAO Program) focuses on improving healthful</p>	<p>incomes of less than \$30,000.</p> <p>High quality, evidence-based child development, learning, health and consumer safety information is available through the parent Website, Minnesota Parents Know (MINPK) (www.MNParentsKnow.info). The Website receives ongoing state funding and has up to 20,000 page views per month.</p> <p>Care Assistance Program (CCAP) policies include payment policies that: allow payment of a provider rate differential, support full day Head Start integrated child care programs by allowing reimbursement of full day rates, and authorized payment of higher rates and payment policies that promoted continuity of care to a selected group of</p>	<p>Minnesota is one of eight states that receive funding from the national Build Initiative. Build provides funding and ongoing technical assistance to support early childhood system reform, coordination of programs and services and ensures that all young children have access to early learning systems that result in school readiness.</p>

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<p>Training Approval, and Learning and Career Guidance.</p> <p>Services for new immigrant families and families for whom English is not their first language is enhanced through written translation of materials, multi-lingual referral lines, bi-lingual staff and contracted vendors who provide bi-lingual and culturally diverse services specific to community needs.</p>	<p>eating and physical activity to prevent and control obesity and other chronic diseases. The Early Childhood Specialist works to coordinate strategies to create policy, systems in early childhood.</p> <p>The federal Maternal, Infant & Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program funds the expansion of evidence-based family home visiting models in Minnesota's highest risk communities. A partnership of agencies and organizations entered into a Memorandum of Concurrence supporting the Minnesota Department of Health's governor-designation as the state's lead agency in developing the Updated State Plan for Home Visiting and agreeing to collaborate on the implementation of the plan.</p>	<p>providers that met high quality standards aligned with the pilot QRIS.</p>	