

North Dakota Department of Public Instruction
 Kirsten Baesler, State Superintendent
 600 E. Boulevard Avenue, Dept. 201
 Bismarck, ND 58505-0440

Early Childhood Education Update to the North Dakota Economic Impact Committee
Presented by Tara Bitz, Early Childhood Administrator
North Dakota Department of Public Instruction
February 3, 2014

Early Childhood in North Dakota

Early Childhood Education and services are separated between the North Dakota Department of Human Services (ND DHS) and the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (ND DPI).

ND Department of Human Services www.nd.gov/dhs/services/childfamily/

- Child and Family Services
 - The Department of Human Services' Children and Family Services Division is responsible for many programs and services, and sets policies and procedures for public child welfare services.
 - Child Care and Head Start are two of the many programs in which ND DPI collaborates with ND DHS on early childhood initiatives
 - Child Care www.nd.gov/dhs/services/childcare/
 - Head Start www.nd.gov/dhs/services/childfamily/headstart/

ND Department of Public Instruction www.dpi.state.nd.us/EarlyChildhoodEduc/index.shtm

- ND DPI Approves Pre-kindergarten Organization
 - Currently 51 districts are approved for pre-kindergarten
www.dpi.state.nd.us/EarlyChildhoodEduc/preschool/organization.pdf
- Pre-kindergarten standards and assessment
 - Standards:
 - ND Pre-kindergarten Standards adopted in September 2013
www.dpi.state.nd.us/EarlyChildhoodEduc/pkstandards.pdf
 - Professional development to align program curriculum and assessment to the ND Pre-kindergarten Standards
www.dpi.state.nd.us/EarlyChildhoodEduc/pre-kStandardsPD.pdf
 - Assessment:
 - Kindergarten Entry Assessment consortium
 North Dakota is part of a 10-state consortium. North Carolina is serving as lead state and fiscal agent, invited North Dakota and other interested states to jointly apply for funding under this competition. North Carolina was funded at \$6.1 million. The primary purpose of the assessment will be to guide instruction and give teachers and students a meaningful tool to adjust teaching and learning to meet or exceed standards across

multiple domains of development.

www.dpi.state.nd.us/EarlyChildhoodEduc/consortium.shtm

- Approval of Federal Funds for Pre-kindergarten Programs and services
 - 13 School Districts utilize Title I funds to support pre-kindergarten
www.dpi.state.nd.us/EarlyChildhoodEduc/preschool1/13-14.pdf
- Administration of Early Childhood Education Grants
 - Early Childhood Continuing Education Grants-\$1,200
 - Early Childhood Environment Grants-\$5,000
 - Applications and information available at
www.dpi.state.nd.us/EarlyChildhoodEduc/grants.shtm
- Data collection
 - Partnering with ITD to map all state early learning programs
 - School District enrollment numbers
 - Funding sources since the passage of SB 2229 allowing the use of local funds
 - Collaborating with ND DHS to align early childhood data to the State Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) www.dpi.state.nd.us/EarlyChildhoodEduc/data.shtm

Early Childhood Care and Education Study Update

The 63rd Legislative Assembly passed Senate Bill 2229 to conduct a study on development, delivery, and administration of Early Childhood Care and Early Childhood Education in North Dakota.

Contractor: Dr. Carrie Germeroth, Assistant Director of Research at Marsico Institute for Early Learning and Literacy at the University of Denver, conducts research in social/emotional development and early childhood classroom quality.

Committee Members: The study management team is from the ND DPI. The study committee consists of representatives from public and private school kindergarten and pre-kindergarten programs, special education, Head Start, tribal early learning programs, child care, institutes of higher education, advocacy groups, and state agencies, including representatives from the Office of the Governor, Department of Human Services, Department of Commerce, and Information Technology Department.

Study Objectives:

- **Objective 1:** Research and analyze the development, delivery, and administration of services for early childhood agencies state-wide.
- **Objective 2:** Research indicators and assessments utilized statewide to evaluate quality, including identification of best practices from other states on early childhood education systems.
- **Objective 3:** Research the current need of providers to expand or to create facilities to provide services, including surveys and focus groups with providers, to determine current costs and projected future needs.
- **Objective 4:** Provide a user-friendly report, including findings and recommendations.

Subcommittee Supports

Early Childhood Data Subcommittee: Research and analyze the development, delivery and administration of services for early childhood agencies state-wide.

- **Data Collected:**
 - Location
 - Number of staff
 - Teacher qualifications, professional development
 - Group size, adult to child ratios
 - Full-Day/Part-Day, number of days/week
 - Child enrollment and demographics
 - Assessments, curriculum, interventions

Financial Data Subcommittee: Research costs associated with operating, expanding, and/or creating facilities to provide services

- **Data on Expenditures Collected:**
 - Salary, benefits, professional development
 - Rent/lease, utilities, maintenance
 - Insurance: Building, liability
 - Food, kitchen supplies
 - Education/office supplies and equipment, postage, advertising
 - Assessments
 - Permits

Indicators and Assessments Subcommittee: Research indicators and assessments utilized state-wide to evaluate quality, including identification of best practices from other states on early childhood education systems.

- **Data to be Collected:**
 - Indicators of quality
 - Number of Staff and Qualifications
 - Group size/ratios
 - Full-Day/Part-Day, number of days/week
 - Assessments, curriculum, interventions
 - Family and community partnerships
 - Accreditation

Stakeholders Subcommittee: Collect data on the experiences of those who have a stake in early childhood care and education

- **Data Collected:**
 - Two online surveys: administrators and families of children age birth-5
 - 221 family responses and 172 program administration responses
 - Focus Groups: conducted in state-wide locations via the Interactive Video Network (IVN)

Upcoming Study Committee Meeting Dates: February. 20, 2014; April 24, 2014; and May 29, 2014

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EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

Study Management Team			
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