Creating Alaska’s Early Childhood Plan

Statewide Needs Assessment
The strategic plan is built on A Needs Assessment of Alaska’s Mixed-Delivery System of Early Childhood Care and Education, Dec. 2019 which compiled and analyzed data about the system, Alaska’s children, and what their families, caregivers and educators need.

Alignment with Existing Statewide Plans
The plan also builds on existing statewide plans in order to coordinate with and support these efforts to advance the early childhood system in Alaska.

Alaska Early Childhood Joint Task Force (JTF) Meetings, Surveys, and Workgroups
An eight member Leadership Team guided a 40+ member JTF advisory group and provided important direction throughout the strategic planning process.

Stakeholder Engagement
During 2019 and 2020, face-to-face and virtual meetings were held throughout the state with hundreds of parents, families, community members, and early childhood professionals.

Guiding Principles
Whole Child and Family Focus
Committed to Equality
Inclusive, Honoring, and Respectful
Research Informed
Cultivating System Change

Moving Forward

Alaska’s Early Childhood System Strengths
- Language and culture
- Family and community ties
- Nonprofit organizations
- Tribal governments
- Passionate advocates and educators
- Innovation in education

Implementing the Plan
- Some activities of the plan have already begun through existing initiatives. The full plan is being recommended for adoption by Alaska’s Early Childhood Coordinating Council (AECCCC) in late 2020.
- A plan will be created to map and analyze current early childhood programs and services and make this information available to families and system professionals.
- Partnerships with families and local communities will be established to ensure their participation in all planning and decision-making related to system change.
- Procedures and practices for collaboration and communication called for in the plan will be established. Achieving the goals of the plan will require all sectors of Alaska’s early childhood system working together with businesses, policy makers, tribes and community leaders.

GOAL 1 Alaska children and families are healthy, safe, and stable.
GOAL 2 Alaska children have quality early learning experiences and are prepared for success in school.
GOAL 3 Alaska children and families are supported by a functional, comprehensive, mixed-delivery early childhood system.

Alaska’s early childhood strategic plan was based on findings and considerations from A Needs Assessment of Alaska’s Mixed-Delivery System of Early Childhood Care and Education, Dec. 2019 which is available at www.earlychildhoodalaska.com

The complete strategic plan, sources and appendices are available at www.earlychildhoodalaska.com

A SUMMARY OF:
Early Childhood Alaska: A Strategic Direction for 2020-2025
June 2020

Alaska’s early childhood strategic plan outlines a series of bold actions and improvements to benefit children, prenatal through age 8, their families, and communities by 2025 and establishes a ten-year vision for the early childhood system. The plan aims to provide children and families in all Alaska communities with equitable access to resources, quality affordable care and education, and every opportunity for them to succeed.

“A paradigm shift is needed for society. We need to realize how important early childhood development is. It has long-term implications for everyone.”

Anchorage Parent

North Star Ten-Year Vision

Alaska children and families thrive in a strong and equitable early childhood system.

GOAL 1 Alaska children and families are healthy, safe, and stable.
GOAL 2 Alaska children have quality early learning experiences and are prepared for success in school.
GOAL 3 Alaska children and families are supported by a functional, comprehensive, mixed-delivery early childhood system.

The complete strategic plan, sources and appendices are available at www.earlychildhoodalaska.com
Stakeholder Engagement Themes:

- Strong & resilient families
- Strong & resilient communities
- Basic needs
- Culture & tradition
- Access to quality care & education
- Affordability
- Workforce requirements

Workforce:
- Increase cross sector recruitment and retention of early childhood professionals.
- Increase professional development opportunities for early childhood professionals.
- Improve wages and compensation for early childhood professionals.
- Increase diversity across the early childhood workforce.

Coordinated Plan Implementation:
- Ensure coordination to develop aligned policies, standards, and regulations across all sectors and settings.
- Create an improved, sustainable and accountable governance approach with decision-making authority.
- Establish roles and responsibilities for both current and improved governance approaches to implement the strategic plan.

See the 123 action steps called for and the full plan content at www.earlychildhoodalaska.com