

Early Childhood Investment Committee
Proposed Sub-Committee of the Early Childhood Advisory Committee
May 15, 2013

Goal: Develop a strategic approach to sustaining early childhood in Maryland by identifying alternative funding strategies.

Approach: Create an Early Childhood Investment Committee (ECIC), a sub-committee of the State Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC), charged with exploring and recommending new and creative funding strategies and investments, to sustain early care and education in Maryland. The composition of the ECIC will be individuals representing public agencies, private corporations and foundations, Higher Education, the General Assembly and other interested and informed individuals.

Rationale: Maryland's Early Care and Education system does not have a comprehensive funding structure that currently supports or will be sufficient to support its needs in the future. The need for a comprehensive funding structure is even more critical once Maryland's Race to The Top - Early Childhood Challenge Grant (RTT-ELC) funding ends in summer 2015.

The State Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) provided advice and assisted with the preparation of the Maryland State Department of Education's RTT-ELC application and is currently charged with monitoring its implementation. With a sub-committee structure of the ECAC already in place, i.e. the Research Advisory Group (RAG), the ECAC is the logical vehicle to house the ECIC, allowing its work to be brought to and through the ECAC thus centralizing decisions, policies and funding affecting early care and education in Maryland in one entity.

Membership:

Membership on the ECIC will be by appointment of the State Superintendent of Schools. Members will be recommended for appointment based on the following criteria:

- background and interest in early childhood
- proven business acumen
- knowledgeable of corporate and philanthropic strategies and investment structures
- experience researching and/or structuring early childhood investment strategies in other states
- involvement in the legislative process.

Committee membership will be between 12 and 18 people.

Schedule:

- May 2013 – (Phase I) - Provide background information on the goal and structure of the proposed Early Childhood Investment Committee to ECAC members at its quarterly meeting. Reach consensus on renaming the Business Investment Committee the Early Childhood Investment Committee.
- June - September 2013 - Identify prospective ECIC members; initiate background work.
- July – Adopt the ECIC as a standing Committee of the ECAC.
- November 2013 - State Superintendent of Schools appoints and convenes ECIC committee publicly announcing charge, goals, members, and timeline.
- November – April 2014 - Committee reviews and refines tasks; explores early childhood public/private/legislative funding mechanisms in other states and in other fields; accesses national/regional speakers to educate ECIC members; performs other due diligence work to gain maximum background knowledge to bring initial recommendations on appropriate funding strategies and/or legislation to the ECAC.
- May 2014 - ECAC Committee reviews, agrees on and forwards recommendations to Superintendent.
- June - November 2014 (Phase II) – Based on feedback from Superintendent, Committee develops strategic plan including fund-raising plan based on approved recommendations; advances legislative work if legislation is recommended.
- December 2014 (Phase III) – Strategic Plan approved by ECAC. If legislation is recommended, legislative work is initiated.
- April 2015 - ECIC reviews process and outcomes of funding strategies and legislative process and forwards results to the ECAC.
- May – September 2015 - One or more of the recommendations is/are recommended to pilot.
- September – December 2015 – The ECIC evaluates the pilot and presents findings to the ECAC.

Background Work

- Recommend potential Committee members, based on a list of skills, to include foundation, corporate, legislative, high education and agency representations, and geographic diversity to Dr. Lowery/Governor for appointment to the Committee.
- Collect information and data about alternative funding strategies used in other states.
- Develop a proposed work plan for the Committee that includes timetable and purpose of the Committee and agenda recommendations for each meeting.