



# MARYLAND'S PRENATAL - AGE EIGHT 2020-2025 STRATEGIC PLAN



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## VISION

All of Maryland's young children and their families will thrive.

DRAFT



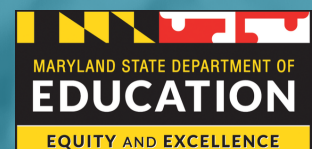


# MISSION

The mission of Maryland's B-5 Early Care and Education (ECE) system is to develop a well-coordinated and integrated system of programs, supports, and services where each child in the state has the opportunity to access a high-quality early childhood experience, arriving at school with a healthy body, healthy mind, and the foundational knowledge and skills needed to succeed; and that every family has access to the resources needed to be effective as their child's first and most important teacher and advocate. A child's access to quality ECE experiences and the positive outcomes that result will not be contingent on income, race, zip code, disability status, nor English language proficiency. This vision and mission has guided the development of the strategic planning goals and actions, policies, and investments to benefit all of Maryland's families and communities.



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## MISSION PRINCIPLES

1. Expand on the successes that Maryland has already created with its mixed-delivery system and strong state and local infrastructure that empowers both systemic and community driven strategies.
2. Adopt a child and family centered approach to program and service delivery that emphasizes prevention, early intervention and the importance of starting early, including the prenatal period.
3. Ensure access to affordable care and education services for all children throughout the state.
4. Provide high-quality care and education programming for all young children and their families that supports all developmental domains, including foundational skills for school readiness, with a focus on social-emotional, mental, and behavioral health.
5. Prioritize the needs of families experiencing challenges and adversity, including rural and homeless families, as well as the needs of children who are medically fragile and have special needs.



# MISSION PRINCIPLES

6. Engage communities and families through equitable, culturally responsive, and two-generational approaches grounded in evidence-based models.
7. Invest in system building coordination and collaboration, leveraging federal, state, and local funding, as well as public-private partnerships.
8. Provide regular and ongoing public forums and feedback loops, transparent communication channels, and consistent messaging.
9. Maximize data system capacity and use, including application to policy and program decision-making.
10. Continually evaluate state progress based on metrics and measures of success that reflect stakeholder input and systemic collaboration.

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## STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

### A. STRENGTHENING AVAILABILITY AND ACCESS

**GOAL A1:** Build access for all families across a mixed delivery system.

**GOAL A2:** Support parent choice by fostering a robust and qualified statewide family child care provider market.

**GOAL A3:** Increase the availability of programs and services.

**GOAL A4:** Ensure that families of children with special needs' concerns are addressed.

**GOAL A5:** Enhance the capacity to meet Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health needs.

**GOAL A6:** Increase the coordination between early childhood and health services.

**GOAL A7:** Promote two-generation initiatives.

**GOAL A8:** Reduce administrative hurdles for families in accessing ECE programs.

### B. IMPROVING AND SUPPORTING PROGRAM QUALITY

**GOAL B1:** Enhance the statewide focus on equity.

**GOAL B2:** Reduce statewide gaps in kindergarten readiness.

**GOAL B3:** Increase the number of highly qualified early childhood staff.

**GOAL B4:** Improve and increase staff preparation, professional development programs and compensation.

**GOAL B5:** Strengthen equity, coordination, and alignment in the statewide professional development system.

**GOAL B6:** Improve program quality and support participation in Maryland EXCELS.

### C. DEEPENING FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

**GOAL C1:** Continue investment in the statewide Family Engagement framework.

**GOAL C2:** Improve family engagement and promote family involvement in leadership and advocacy roles.





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## D. BUILDING SYSTEM INFRASTRUCTURE AND COORDINATION

**GOAL D1:** Increase integration of early childhood services among state and local agencies.

**GOAL D2:** Improve coordination among agencies responsible for services for young children and families.

**GOAL D3:** Continue to leverage the state and local governance infrastructure through Early Childhood Advisory Councils.

**GOAL D4:** Conduct a statewide ECE facilities study and apply findings to targeted improvement strategies.

## E. ENSURING SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION EXPERIENCES

**GOAL E1:** Ensure successful transition for young children between early care and learning settings, and into kindergarten and the early grades.

**GOAL E2:** Strengthen family engagement in preparing for transition between ECE settings and into Kindergarten and elementary school.

**GOAL E3:** Incorporate transition planning in professional development and training opportunities.

## F. MODERNIZING AND MAXIMIZING DATA SYSTEMS

**GOAL F1:** Improve data system modernization to support more effective communication with families and the public, as well as better customer service.

**GOAL F2:** Improve, integrate and coordinate Maryland's early childhood data collection.

**GOAL F3:** Develop a unified application for social services and programs.

**GOAL F4:** Institute a statewide unique child identifier that will allow for longitudinal data.

## G. LEVERAGING RESOURCES AND FUNDING

**GOAL G1:** Strengthen sustainability and target investments where they are most needed and most effective.

**GOAL G2:** Increase public awareness of funding available and decrease administrative barriers for families.

**GOAL G3:** Streamline funding sources and mechanisms to increase funding efficiencies.





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Place your comments here

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