



Maryland's Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant Update September 2012

The Maryland State Department of Education's Division of Early Childhood Development is taking the lead on the implementation of the Early Learning Challenge grant.

Key Activities Underway or Completed

Local Early Childhood Councils - Annie E. Casey Foundation has developed Results Based Accountability and Results Based Facilitation training for the local council leadership teams and has planned regional training cohorts to provide customized leadership training.

The Orientation for Local Early Childhood Advisory Council Teams will be held on October 1, 2012. This orientation will provide information on the five step process to forming local councils, the grant funding allocations for planning and implementation as well as the role local councils will play in the ten statewide Race to the Top projects.

Maryland EXCELS Quality Rating and Improvement System - Recruitment is underway for Maryland EXCELS Field Test to begin in the fall. More information is at www.marylandexcels.org.

Quality Capacity Building - A program profile has been developed for each Breakthrough Title I school location in Baltimore City and Prince George's County. This profile contains a variety of information about each school, such as child capacity, accreditation status, and compliance with licensing regulations.

Two new Judy Center satellite locations will be provided through ELCG funding. Satellites are overseen by an existing Judy Center and share the same leadership and partnership. The sites chosen are Carmody Hills Elementary School in Capitol Heights and The Historic Samuel Coleridge Taylor Elementary School in Baltimore City. Plans are underway to begin operations at the beginning of School Year 2012-2013.

Maryland Model for School Readiness/Professional Development - The Notice of Grant Award has been issued to the Maryland Family Network (MFN). MFN and MSDE have held several planning meetings to collaborate on the revisions of the Maryland Model for School Readiness (MMSR) modules for this project.

Comprehensive Assessment Project (CAS) – The project team from Ohio and Maryland worked with its partners, Johns Hopkins University-Center for Technology in Education and WestEd on an alignment of each state's standards, developing the assessment framework and blueprint, and initiating the prototype development of specific indicators. In addition, learning progressions were developed for the formative assessment, 36 to 72 months, which define the learning trajectories of children before they start kindergarten. The Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) identified and recruited a national panel of experts to advise the project team as they design and develop the assessment system.

Child Development Innovations - The Social Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (SEFEL) website is being built and will house the SEFEL online professional development modules, Maryland SEFEL resources and free downloads for early learning and development programs.

> The Developmental Screening Ad Hoc Committee is finalizing recommendations for decision making and statewide processes for early learning and development programs to follow to identify children with developmental delays earlier so they may receive needed services and supports.

> The Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation for Pediatricians is developing pilot projects and planning for pediatric practices to enroll. This project helps pediatricians with first line detection strategies and resources when families bring young children to the doctor with behavioral or emotional concerns.

> The Developmental Screening Training for Pediatricians is underway with a trainer and a group of pediatric practices that have requested this training.

Family Engagement and Support - The planning team for the Family Engagement Coalition is meeting to determine the status of family engagement statewide in early childhood programs and is setting a full coalition meeting. Five public libraries in Title I areas are in the process of establishing Library Family Councils and Parent Information Centers.

Early Learning Data System - The design phase of a Web-based public portal for use by the Child Care Subsidy program has been initiated. This portal will allow families and child care providers who are participating in the Subsidy program to conduct a variety of program-related transactions online.

Maryland's Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant information:

http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/divisions/child_care/challenge