



# IMPACT

COLLECTIVELY BUILDING MARYLAND'S FUTURE

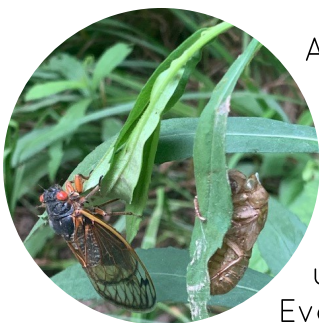


“This time, child care has a seat at the table. I hope all of you will consider letting us help you pull up a chair.”



**By Steven Hicks,**  
Assistant State Superintendent,  
Division of Early Childhood

## A Seat at the Table



Across Maryland, one of the greatest events is underway.

Every 17 years or so, it happens. We've all been waiting for this moment for years. The anticipation has been building since the last time. It's been met with great trepidation, but also joy, hope, and promise. It will change everything. No, I am not talking about the [Brood X Cicadas](#), though that too

was a spectacular event. Trillions of subterranean creatures dug their way out of the earth beginning in May, crawled up the sides of trees and fence posts, and then emerged from their translucent skins as newly minted, red-eyed, glistening-winged creatures. Their [mating call](#) pierces the air at dusk. Discarded exoskeletons hang from branches and leaves. Some people love them so much, they [eat](#) them!

The other event that happens every 17 years or

so in Maryland is education reform. In October 1999, the [Commission on Education Finance, Equity, and Excellence](#), also known as the *Thornton Commission*, named for its Chair, Dr. Alvin Thornton, was created to review current financing, formulas and accountability measures for education.

(Continued on page 2.)

# BLUEPRINT for Maryland's FUTURE

The 2002 [final report's recommendations](#) led to historic reforms in school funding, as well as advances in the area of early childhood: mandatory full-day kindergarten for all five-year-olds and publicly funded prekindergarten available to all economically disadvantaged four-year-olds. This was an opportunity for Maryland's children to gain access to early education, especially children from low-income families. Seventeen years later, in June 2016, a new [Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education](#) was formed. Many of us know it as the *Kirwan Commission* after its Chair, Dr. William E. (Brit) Kirwan. Just as Brood X is the largest brood of 17-year cicadas, the [Blueprint for Maryland's Future Final Report](#) is the boldest and most ambitious of any proposal to come out of

Maryland and makes bold proposals for expanding and investing in early childhood education.

I wasn't in Maryland in 2002. In fact, I wasn't even on this coast. I was teaching kindergarten in South Los Angeles and setting up an early childhood center at my K-12 public charter school. What I have heard though, is that it was a devastating blow to the child care community because it did not envision a mixed delivery system for early education. The [Blueprint for Maryland's Future](#), which is now law and goes into effect next year, does. Funds for the [Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program](#) will increase by over \$10 million in the next decade. There are multi-million dollar increases in funding to support the early childhood workforce in reaching higher levels in the

[Credentialing program](#) and cover the costs for educators to earn a [Child Development Associate \(CDA\) Credential](#) or an [Associate's or Bachelor's degree](#). The law includes hefty annual bonuses for programs participating in [Maryland EXCELS](#). It also expands voluntary universal prekindergarten for three- and four-year-old children in a mixed delivery system. The last item on the list and arguably the most expensive – universal PreK – presents both a challenge and an opportunity to the child care community. One of the biggest challenges for child care centers is attracting a workforce that meets the requirements for teachers: a bachelor's degree and an Early Childhood Education (PreK-3) Certification. Many family child care providers don't have these credentials either.

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Photo by: Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate

**“The Division of Early Childhood is working to support family child care providers and centers in their ability to participate in this historic expansion of PreK.”**

The [Division of Early Childhood](#) is working to support family child care providers and centers in their ability to participate in this historic expansion of PreK. We’re working to increase opportunities to earn a bachelor’s degree on-line and a P-3 certification. And our [Child Care Career and Professional Development Program \(CCCPDF\)](#) will pay for it.

Voluntary universal PreK is an opportunity to provide more children with the chance to succeed in

kindergarten and give parents more educational choices. Publicly funded PreK can also provide economic stability for the child care system: the funding per slot begins at \$10,094 in 2022 and then increases every year with slots funded at \$19,526 each by 2030. Meeting the requirements for high-quality PreK won’t be easy. Family child care providers and early childhood educators in centers work long hours, and it’s difficult to find time to take classes, even online. Not everyone

will want to, or be able to, take this path. It requires perseverance, commitment and sacrifice. It’s also a long-term investment for an educator or provider in her own professional learning and growth. With the Blueprint now law, Maryland is on course to make high-quality, publicly funded PreK available for three-and-four year-old children across the state. This time, child care has a seat at the table. I hope all of you will consider letting us help you pull up a chair.

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## Welcome

**Lisa Weeks** to the Office of Child Care as Licensing Specialist in Baltimore County. Contact her at [Lisa.Weeks@maryland.gov](mailto:Lisa.Weeks@maryland.gov).

**Janita Kanu** to the Office of Child Care as Licensing Specialist in Montgomery County. Contact her at [Janita.Kanu@maryland.gov](mailto:Janita.Kanu@maryland.gov).

**Genean Grobe** to Office of Child Care as Licensing Specialist in Howard and Carroll counties. Contact her at [Genean.Grobe@maryland.gov](mailto:Genean.Grobe@maryland.gov).

**Michelle Grant** to the Office of Child Care as Licensing Specialist in Baltimore County. Contact her at [Michelle.Grant@maryland.gov](mailto:Michelle.Grant@maryland.gov).

**Julia Chavez** to the Preschool Development Grant Birth-5 (PDG, B-5) team as Education Program Specialist. Contact her at [Julia.Chavez@maryland.gov](mailto:Julia.Chavez@maryland.gov).

**Nancy Cahlink- Seidler** to the Office of Child Care as Licensing Specialist Trainee in Baltimore City. Contact her at [Nancy.Cahlink-Seidler@maryland.gov](mailto:Nancy.Cahlink-Seidler@maryland.gov).

**Takeisha Edmonds** Preschool Development Grant Birth-5 (PDG, B-5) team as Education Program Specialist. Contact her at [Takeisha.Edmonds@maryland.gov](mailto:Takeisha.Edmonds@maryland.gov).

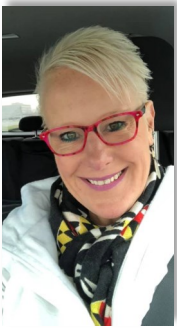
**Sophia Berry** to the Office of Child Care as Licensing Specialist in Prince George's County. Contact her at [Sophia.Berry@maryland.gov](mailto:Sophia.Berry@maryland.gov).

**Monique Dawkins** to the Maryland EXCELS Branch as a Quality Assurance Specialist for Carroll and Howard counties. Contact her at [Monique.Dawkins@maryland.gov](mailto:Monique.Dawkins@maryland.gov).

**Yasmeen Jordan** to the Office of Child Care as a Licensing Specialist in Baltimore City. Contact her at [Yasmeen.Jordan@maryland.gov](mailto:Yasmeen.Jordan@maryland.gov).

## Contacting the Division Branches

Division of Early Childhood	<a href="mailto:earlychildhood.msde@maryland.gov">earlychildhood.msde@maryland.gov</a>
Early Learning Branch	<a href="mailto:early.learningbranchesmsde@maryland.gov">early.learningbranchesmsde@maryland.gov</a>
Collaboration and Program Improvement Branch	<a href="mailto:collaboration.programimprovement@maryland.gov">collaboration.programimprovement@maryland.gov</a>
Office of Child Care	<a href="mailto:earlychildhood.msde@maryland.gov">earlychildhood.msde@maryland.gov</a>
Licensing Branch	<a href="mailto:licensingocc.msde@maryland.gov">licensingocc.msde@maryland.gov</a>
Credentialing Branch	<a href="mailto:credentialocc.msde@maryland.gov">credentialocc.msde@maryland.gov</a> or 1-877-355-1229
Child Care Scholarship Program	<a href="mailto:CCSCentral2@maryland.gov">CCSCentral2@maryland.gov</a> or 1-877-227-0125
Maryland EXCELS	<a href="mailto:info@marylandexcels.org">info@marylandexcels.org</a> or <a href="http://marylandexcels.org">marylandexcels.org</a>



## Director's Dugout

You have questions, we have answers!

By Jennifer Nizer, Director of the Office of Child Care

The past year has been such a whirlwind in the child care field!

During the pandemic, the Office of Child Care had provided listening sessions to ensure the provider community was able to get updated information in a timely way. In the beginning of the pandemic, the listening sessions were weekly. Recently, as the pandemic began to subside, the sessions were held monthly. During these sessions, there were many questions that are still relevant today. Here are some of those important questions that you have asked and the answers you may be looking for during this time of rebuilding.

*What is MSDE doing to help child care providers stay open?*

When the pandemic began, there was great concern about whether child care would be closed to help prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. When that happened, the Office of Child Care (OCC) immediately opened the Essential Personnel Child Care (EPCC) and Essential Personnel School-Age (EPSA) programs so providers could continue providing care to those persons deemed essential by the Governor's office. These programs were paid by MSDE at a rate of \$350 per child for children ages 6 weeks to 3 years, and \$250 per week for children ages 3 years to 13 years, regardless of how many days the child attended. As providers submitted a Verification or Reopening form, they were given a cleaning grant of \$800 for family child care providers and \$1600 for child care centers. In addition, any program open prior to April 24, 2020 received an additional \$2,000 grant. With additional funding that has been provided, all family child care providers and child care centers who applied for a Child Care Pandemic Relief

Grant received funding from MSDE in amounts specific to the capacity of their program. The amounts ranged from \$4,150 to \$150,000. In addition to that grant funding, the OCC, in conjunction with the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), provided guidance on precautions and procedures that if followed properly, would help programs minimize the effects of COVID-19. Maryland also recently received over \$500 million to invest in child care sustainability. Those opportunities will be available shortly.

*What about sustainability for child care programs with PreK expansion coming?*

PreK expansion has been available for community-based providers for years, and is still available to those who meet the guidelines. There are numerous opportunities available to help you position your program to be part of the expansion of PreK over the next 10 years.

The Child Care Career and Professional Development Fund (CCCPDF) is a way for child care providers to attain an associates and/or bachelor's degree, including certification, without paying for tuition, fees and books. Please go to [earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/child-care-providers/office-child-care/credentialing-branch/](https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/child-care-providers/office-child-care/credentialing-branch/) to see eligibility requirements.

Just starting out in child care? MSDE pays for you to attain your Child Development Associate (CDA) through the Council for Professional Recognition. Go to [earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/CDA](https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/CDA) to find out more information. Many colleges are also accepting the CDA as college credit that can be applied toward your degree. Ask your college about the CDA! The Family Child Care Alliance is in the second year of a PreK pilot that is focused on what resources and supports are needed for family child care providers to be successful in providing expansion for PreK children in a home environment.

(Continued on page 6.)

*When we have the audit from the funding received from the grant, what do we need to provide and how long do we keep records?*

The OCC will be auditing all programs and grants that have been developed during the pandemic, including the EPCC/EPISA program, cleaning grants and the most recent grants provided through the Child Care Pandemic Relief grants. If chosen for the audit, you will need to provide all receipts for expenditures of the funds. Receipts for cleaning supplies, lease payments, technology purchases and other items that you had to purchase or pay for during the pandemic to help your program stay open and operating should be available to review. As we have new grant opportunities, please keep in mind: **A grant is a sum of money awarded to your business from the government that you do not have to pay back.** It's awarded to your business to assist in its development, often for a specific purpose, such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

When you fill out any grant application, you are signing assurances that you will use the funds the way the grant outlines, appropriately and for the reasons you have provided in the grant application.

You do not have to pay back a grant.

All grant documentation must be kept for 5 years. Many programs will be audited during this time.

*When will guidance change now that things are going back to a more normal time?*

The MDH and MSDE are changing guidance on COVID-19 as more information is developing. All MDH and MSDE guidance will sunset on August 15, 2021. Although guidance will sunset, the continued recommendation for anyone who is not vaccinated, including young children, is to wear a mask and social distance. The current guidance, and any updates that may be distributed prior to August 15, 2021, will still be in effect.

## Meeting the Challenge: Maryland's Early Learning Response to COVID-19

Meeting the Challenge:  
Maryland's Early Learning Response  
to COVID-19



## Connect with us!

Be sure to friend and follow all of the Division's social media accounts to stay up-to-date on Early Childhood news in Maryland.

### Division of Early Childhood

[twitter.com/md\\_early\\_ed](https://twitter.com/md_early_ed)  
[facebook.com/msde.earlyed](https://facebook.com/msde.earlyed)

### Assistant State Superintendent, Steven Hicks

[twitter.com/stevenhicksmsde](https://twitter.com/stevenhicksmsde)



**SIGN UP TO RECEIVE  
IMPACT HERE**

### Family Engagement

[twitter.com/MDEngageEarly](https://twitter.com/MDEngageEarly)  
[facebook.com/MDEngageEarly](https://facebook.com/MDEngageEarly)

### Maryland EXCELS

[twitter.com/MarylandEXCELS](https://twitter.com/MarylandEXCELS)  
[facebook.com/MDEXCELS](https://facebook.com/MDEXCELS)  
[instagram.com/MarylandEXCELS](https://instagram.com/MarylandEXCELS)



Access resources, documents and forms from the branches in the Office of Child Care by following these links:  
Child Care Scholarship Program  
<https://bit.ly/2FZiNsz>  
Maryland Child Care Credential Program  
<https://bit.ly/2vla6Tf>  
Licensing  
<https://bit.ly/2DHABpO>  
Maryland EXCELS  
<https://bit.ly/2S1basj>

## The COVID-19 Training Will Continue to be Available



The COVID-19 training is available for all providers, staff and volunteers to complete. The training takes advantage of the latest technology tools for online learning. This required training prepares you to follow basic practices to keep children in your care healthy and safe during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

*As of July 1, 2021, all trainers and training organizations may resume face-to-face training without limitations.*

*More questions? Contact Debbie Langer, Training Approval Specialist, at [deborah.langer@maryland.gov](mailto:deborah.langer@maryland.gov).*

## Consolidated Health and Safety Guidance for Child Care Facilities



The health and safety guidance for child care facilities is available in one convenient packet. It will be updated and available on the Division of Early Childhood website as new information becomes available.

Check the date on the first page of the document to make sure you're using the most up-to-date information.

Guidance includes:


- Guidance for Use of Cloth Face Coverings in Child Care Programs
- Exclusion, Quarantine, and Closure Recommendations for COVID-19 or COVID-19-like Illness in Child Care Programs
- Guidance for Temperature and Symptom Screening in Child Care Programs
- Frequently Asked Questions: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Guidance for Child Care Settings  
[Get the latest COVID-19 Guidance.](#)



# UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THE CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2021, the contact information for CCS Central changed. Use the following contact information when submitting child care provider payment and the Child Care Scholarship related materials :

CHILD CARE PROVIDERS			
	Where to Submit Forms	Where to Submit Forms	Where to Submit Forms
	Invoices	Signed Scholarships Provider Overpayments	Attendance Audit Documents
Fax	202-478-5117	202-478-2102	202-478-5117
E-mail	<a href="mailto:CCSInvoices@maryland.gov">CCSInvoices@maryland.gov</a>	<a href="mailto:CCSScholarships@maryland.gov">CCSScholarships@maryland.gov</a>	<a href="mailto:CCSAudits@maryland.gov">CCSAudits@maryland.gov</a>
Mail	CCS Central 2 PO BOX 346022 Bethesda, MD 20827	CCS Central 2 PO BOX 346031 Bethesda, MD 20827	
Toll Free Number: 1-877-227-0125			

CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIP CUSTOMERS (PARENTS)		
	Where to Submit Forms	Where to Submit Forms
	Child Care Scholarship Applications Supporting Documents Parent Overpayments	Signed Scholarships
Fax:	202-478-2102	202-478-2102
E-mail:	<a href="mailto:CCSCentral2@maryland.gov">CCSCentral2@maryland.gov</a>	<a href="mailto:CCSScholarships@maryland.gov">CCSScholarships@maryland.gov</a>
Mail:	CCS Central 2 PO BOX 346031 Bethesda, MD 20827	CCS Central 2 PO BOX 346031 Bethesda, MD 20827
Toll Free Number: 1-877-227-0125		



# MARYLAND EXCELS

#EXCELSstrong—since 2013!

Follow @MarylandEXCELS for valuable child care and early education information and tips.



Want to receive emails from Maryland EXCELS?

Sign up at [MarylandEXCELS.org](http://MarylandEXCELS.org) near the bottom of the homepage under “Newsletter.”

Maryland EXCELS helps programs deliver the high-quality child care and early education all children deserve. As the state’s quality rating and improvement system, Maryland EXCELS supports programs in their ongoing commitment to meeting the needs of children and families.

Let Maryland EXCELS know how we can help you!

Contact [info@marylandexcels.org](mailto:info@marylandexcels.org).

Quality Rated Programs Statewide	
Percent of Quality Rated Child Care Centers	Percent of Quality Rated Family Child Care Homes
75%	47%

Participating Programs Statewide (as of May 2021)	
Total Number Participating	Percent of Eligible Child Care Programs
4,830	63%

## Good News for Maryland Accreditation and Military Families

Maryland Accreditation is now recognized by the Department of Defense (DoD). The DoD initiative, Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood (MCCYN) provides child care fee assistance to eligible military families. Child Care Aware of America is a third-party administrator for MCCYN.

[Learn more.](#)

## Where Are You in Your Program’s Journey?

- Need Help Becoming Part of Maryland EXCELS?
- Want to Increase Your Quality Rating?
- Seeking One-on-One Assistance?

Check out these valuable [Tutorials](#) for child care and public prekindergarten or contact your [Quality Assurance Specialist](#) – dedicated to assisting providers one-on-one.

## See How Maryland EXCELS Supports Families

At home or in a child care program, engage the youngest learners with interactive and educational activities. Find hands-on fun at [marylandexcels.org](http://marylandexcels.org).



## Promoting Programs on the Radio

During May 2021, Maryland EXCELS programs were promoted through advertisements on 92Q, Q105, 105.3 and 107.9 radio stations. Through these radio spots, Maryland EXCELS also sponsored a giveaway for families with young children to win a Kacey Quality Koala stuffed animal and activity book. This popular promotion helped engage many families and spread the word about the importance of high quality child care and early education.



Excellence in Care and Education  
**MARYLAND ACCREDITATION**

Maryland Accreditation recognizes programs that meet the highest standards of quality to benefit children, families, and staff.

Follow the path to continuous program improvement with Maryland Accreditation.

Sign up for a Maryland Accreditation orientation at:

[earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org](http://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org)

Maryland Accreditation recognizes and validates child care centers and public prekindergarten programs that meet nationally accepted standards for high quality.

Current Number of Maryland Accredited Programs Statewide	
Child Care Centers	228
Public Prekindergarten	131
<b>Total</b>	<b>359</b>

Current Number of Programs Participating in Maryland Accreditation Includes Accredited Programs	
Child Care Centers	332
Public Prekindergarten	170
<b>Total</b>	<b>502</b>

## Seeking Accreditation Support Funding?

Use the following applicable link to apply for funding today:

Application for National Accreditation Support  
([Google Account Holders](#))  
([Non-Google Account Holders](#))

Application for Maryland Accreditation Support  
([Google Account Holders](#))  
([Non-Google Account Holders](#))

Number of Programs Supported by the Fund	
October 1, 2019 through January 2021	
Family Child Care Providers	89
Child Care Centers	44
<b>Total</b>	<b>133</b>

## Get Technical Assistance Upon Request

As of January 2021, optional remote Technical Assistance replaced Program Improvement Visits. Your program can now request individualized Technical Assistance, which is provided by Quality Assurance Specialists.

## Thank You From Maryland EXCELS and Maryland Accreditation

Thank you to the 499 early childhood professionals who shared valuable feedback about the Maryland EXCELS and Maryland Accreditation standards. Your input will guide us as we work to revise the standards.



## Are you a credentialed provider?

Need to contact the Maryland

Child Care Credential Program?

Have questions?

Maryland Child Care Credential Program applications should be sent directly to Child Care Central in one of the following methods:

### Mail:

Child Care Central  
PO Box 598  
Baltimore, MD 21203

### Fax:

410.229.0145

### Email:

cccredential@conduent.com

*Effective May 1, 2021, the Credential Program telephone number is 1-877-355-1229.*

Do NOT mail your credential program application packet to MSDE Headquarters. Applications received at MSDE for the Maryland Child Care Credential program will be returned.

Applications, forms and additional information for the Maryland Child Care Credential Program are available at:

[earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/credentialing](http://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/credentialing)

## How to Submit Applications for Credentialing Branch Programs

Applications for the following programs should not be mailed to MSDE.

Applications should be sent electronically to:

[credentialocc.msde@maryland.gov](mailto:credentialocc.msde@maryland.gov)

- ◆ Child Care Career and Professional Development Fund (CCCPDF)
- ◆ Training Voucher and Training Reimbursement Applications

**Note:** Training Voucher and Reimbursement applications can also be submitted online.

Reimbursement applications: [earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/node/510](http://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/node/510)

Voucher applications: [earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/node/511](http://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/node/511)



## Child Care Quality Incentive Grant and Family Child Care Provider Direct Grant Fund Program Update



Effective July 1, 2021, the Office of Child Care - Workforce Advancement Branch no longer accepts applications for the Child Care Quality Incentive Grant and Family Child Care Provider Direct Grant Fund Program due to limited funding.

New grant opportunities in SFY 2022 will be available soon to support quality improvements and start-up and sustainability for family child care and center-based programs.

More information will be available on our website.

**HEADS UP!**

The Credentialing Branch, the branch of the OCC responsible for improving the workforce through education, quality learning opportunities and alternative pathways for teacher certification, is in the process of changing its name to **Workforce Advancement Branch**.

Providers should be aware that you may still see Credentialing Branch materials for a few months until the transition is complete.

## Credentialed Providers To Date (July 2020–April 2021)

County Name	Staff Level 1	Staff Level 2	Staff Level 3	Staff Level 4	Admin Level 1	Staff Level 4+	Admin Level 2	Staff Level 5	Admin Level 3	Staff Level 6	Admin Level 4	Total
Allegany	2	2	13	8	3	-	-	4	-	12	-	44
Anne Arundel	49	47	154	108	7	29	2	87	-	82	8	573
Baltimore County	40	36	213	152	10	26	1	103	-	197	8	786
Calvert	23	3	28	26	2	7	1	27	1	19	2	139
Caroline	2	1	10	6	1	6	2	11	-	8	2	49
Carroll	17	40	104	97	1	9	-	56	-	82	6	412
Cecil	3	1	14	6	-	6	-	4	-	6	-	40
Charles	21	24	47	30	1	10	-	33	-	19	3	188
Dorchester	3	3	8	8	1	-	-	6	-	7	-	36
Frederick	49	39	101	79	8	14	2	54	-	76	7	429
Garrett	1	3	6	5	6	3	-	9	-	9	-	42
Harford	15	30	112	54	4	12	-	67	1	66	1	362
Howard	32	31	140	103	6	10	1	75	1	125	7	531
Kent	2	3	2	3	-	-	-	3	-	4	-	17
Montgomery	81	84	312	376	60	75	12	114	1	215	29	1,359
Prince George's	68	38	123	139	16	20	-	35	1	73	9	522
Queen Anne's	-	6	14	2	1	2	-	5	-	7	-	37
St. Mary's	7	7	25	18	1	6	-	14	-	7	1	86
Somerset	-	5	9	5	1	1	-	3	-	10	-	34
Talbot	-	8	14	12	6	3	-	12	-	11	2	68
Washington	15	12	48	30	7	6	1	52	-	34	1	206
Wicomico	22	11	53	23	2	6	1	35	1	31	3	188
Worcester	10	4	24	24	4	1	-	20	-	31	1	119
Baltimore City	45	41	142	163	16	29	-	75	-	155	1	667
<b>Total</b>	<b>507</b>	<b>479</b>	<b>1,716</b>	<b>1,477</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>904</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1,286</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>6,934</b>

### Training Voucher and Reimbursement Program

Training Vouchers and Reimbursement are designed to assist child care professionals participating in the Maryland Child Care Credential Program at Level Two or higher with the costs of training for professional development.

An application for training reimbursement can be submitted for:

- Approved Core of Knowledge Training (Note: training must be a minimum of 2 clock hours)
- Pre-Service training
- Registration at statewide and national child care conferences

An application for training voucher can be submitted for:

- Pre-Service training
- Registration at statewide and national child care conferences

Eligibility:

Child care providers participating in the Credential Program at Level Two or higher are eligible to receive up to \$400 each year as long

as funds are available. Requests for training voucher or reimbursement, must not exceed \$400.



### Training Reimbursement- National Virtual Conference Attendance

Applicants who apply to receive a training voucher or reimbursement for a virtual national conference must provide documentation indicating the successful completion of each training attended. Either of the following forms of documentation will do:

- An email from the training organization indicating the session titles, hours completed, and a description of each session attended;
- An email from each session facilitator with the session title, hours completed, and a description of the session; or
- Verification of CEUs

## The Child Care Career and Professional Development Fund

Are you interested in pursuing an associates or bachelor's degree?

**COLLEGE  
BOUND**

The Child Care Career and Professional Development Fund (CCCPDF) is a tuition assistance program for child care providers to obtain a college education at

participating colleges/universities in Maryland. Funding is available for child care providers to earn a college degree in the following areas:

- Early Childhood Education
- Child Development
- Elementary Education
- Special Education

### Eligibility Requirements

CCCPDF applicants must meet the following requirements to receive funds (COMAR 13A.14.09):

- \* Participate in the Maryland Child Care Credential Program at Level Two or higher
- \* Work in a licensed child care center or be a registered family child care provider in Maryland at least 10 hours per week
- \* Fulfill entrance requirements at the participating college of your choice
- \* Have at least one year of documented experience working with groups of children in an approved setting
- \* Maintain employment in child care in Maryland while participating in the Program
- \* Participate in professional development
- \* Agree to complete the child care service requirement in Maryland for at least 10 hours per week after completion of the degree
- \* Maintain at least a 2.50 cumulative GPA from the point of first entering the Program



### Application Deadline

Thank you to all applicants who submitted an application for the 2021-22 school year. The next deadline to apply for the Child Care Career and Professional Development Fund is **March 1, 2022**.

Helpful tips for preparing to apply for the CCCPDF:

- Review program information online: [earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/child-care-providers/office-child-care/credentialing-branch/child-care-career-and-professional](https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/child-care-providers/office-child-care/credentialing-branch/child-care-career-and-professional)
- Apply to the participating college of your choice
- Continuing students must schedule a meeting with the CCCPDF Coordinator to review their application before submitting to MSDE
- Apply for FAFSA (see college coordinator for more information)
- Ensure that your credential is up-to-date and current through application deadline

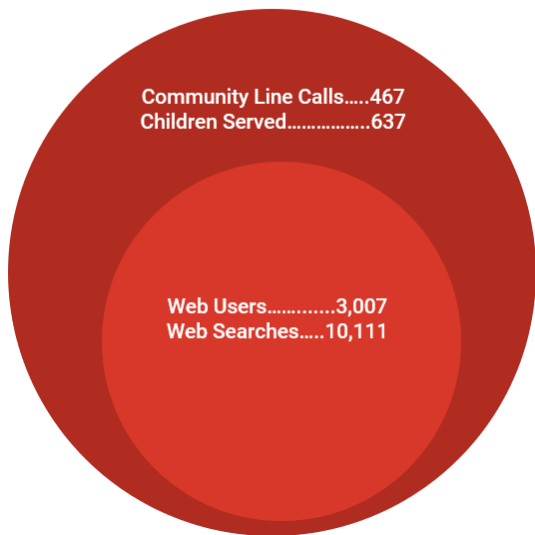
For more information about the application process and a list of participating colleges, please visit our website:

[earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/](https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/)

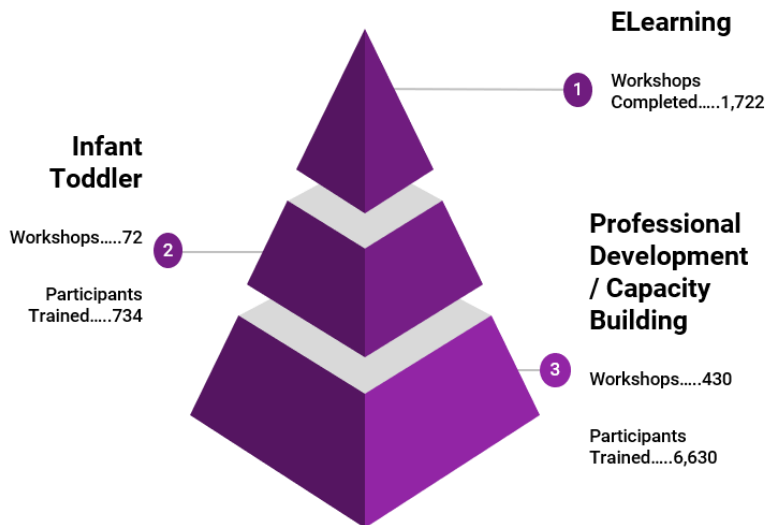


# State Coordinating Entity and the Maryland Child Care Resource Center Network

## LOCATE

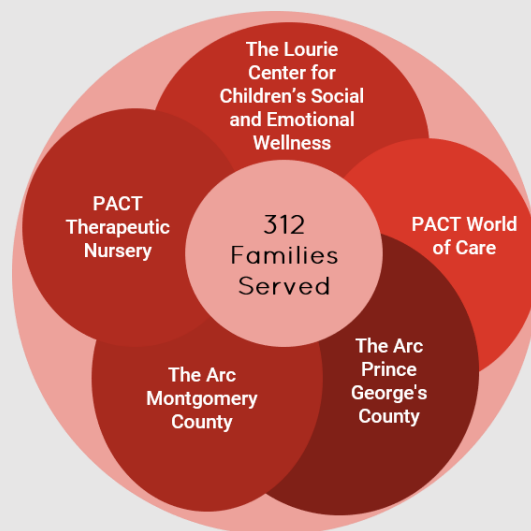


## TRAINING



## Child Care for Medically Fragile Children Birth to Five

The Child Care for Medically Fragile Children Birth to Five grant provides medically-based child care and early education services to children with medical diagnoses and those who have developmental delays, physical disabilities, and behavioral issues requiring specialized care.



The Maryland State Department of Education, Division of Early Childhood will provide funding to support child care providers with obtaining their Child Development Associate® (CDA) Credential™ from the Council for Professional Recognition.

**Earn your CDA®**

APPLY NOW

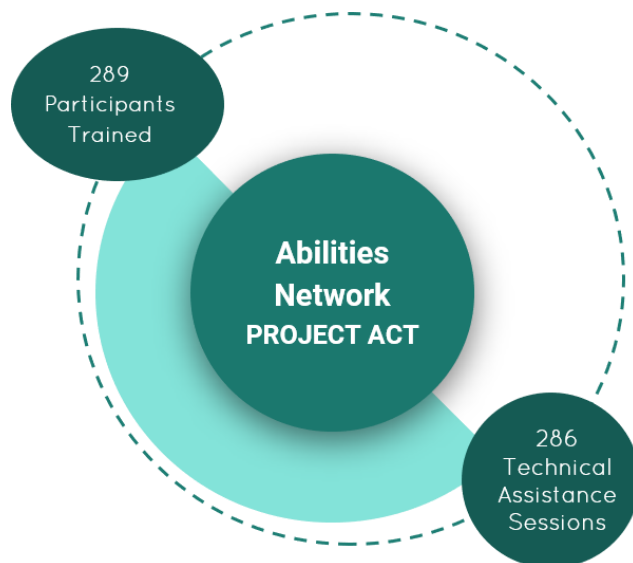
This initiative was funded through the PDG B-5 Grant and through the Governor's Office to enhance the early childhood workforce in career advancement.

For more information, visit: <https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/CDA>

## Training for Caregivers of Infants and Toddlers

The Special Needs Technical Assistance and Training for Caregivers of Infants and Toddlers grant provides comprehensive statewide technical assistance and training for caregivers who are providing care services to special needs children, birth through 3 years of age.

These children must be enrolled in regulated family child care homes; licensed child care centers; and facilities operating under the Arc of Maryland Programs, and children in Foster Care are also included.

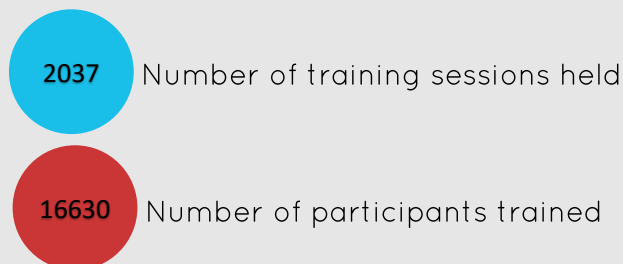


## Training Updates and Highlights

### Current Number of Trainers:



### Training Conducted Between July 2020 - December 2020



Search for training:  
**Maryland Child Care Training Calendar**  
[trainingcalendar.marylandfamilynetwork.org/Search](http://trainingcalendar.marylandfamilynetwork.org/Search)

## Who Can Provide Training?

Preservice training can be offered only by:

- a regionally accredited or approved college or university; or
- an organization or individual that is currently approved to offer core of knowledge training and is approved by the Office of Child Care.

Core of Knowledge and Continued Training can be offered by:

- Regionally accredited or approved colleges or universities;
- Approved trainers or training organizations that meet the requirements of COMAR 13A.14.08;

- Branches within the Maryland State Department of Education;
- Local, State, or federal government agencies;
- Maryland school systems and libraries;
- Nationally or Internationally recognized training organizations; or
- Child Care associations affiliated with a State or National Association that have been approved by the Office of Child Care to conduct or provide training.



NOW AVAILABLE STATEWIDE!

REGISTER FOR FREE ACCESS

# early learning portal

- 50+ Videos
- Delivering Engaging Strategies
- Led by Wolf Trap Artists
- For Caregivers, Educators, and Families



[yamd.org/programs/early-learning](https://yamd.org/programs/early-learning)

Register for access to a growing library of Early Learning videos that engage young children and care providers in joyful arts experiences with performances and instruction by Wolf Trap teaching artists!



Young Audiences  
Arts for Learning  
Maryland

Thanks to the generous support of the Maryland State Department of Education's Division of Early Childhood, as well as the partnership of Ready At Five, Young Audiences' Early Learning Video Portal is now FREE for ALL Maryland caregivers, educators, parents, and children through June 2022.



## What does it take to become a strong reader?



Oral Language Development: is the system through which we use spoken words to express knowledge, ideas, and feelings. Developing oral language, then, means developing the skills and knowledge

that go into listening and speaking—all of which have a strong relationship to reading comprehension and to writing.

Children who hear more words spoken at home and in childcare learn more words and enter school with better vocabularies. It's never too soon to start talking to a baby — describing out loud everything that's going on around you. It's also important to listen and respond to what young children are communicating.

### How to promote oral language:

1. Create or learn songs to expand children's vocabulary. Use songs to describe your daily routines, periodically adding new verses that include new vocabulary words.
2. As baby begins to speak, start asking, "What's that?" when pointing to objects or pictures. Elaborate on their simple answers as a way to have them listening to more words. "Yes, that is a banana! It's yellow and smooth."
3. Talk about the things you see in your neighborhood, on trips around town, or around the classroom. These conversations help build a child's understanding of her world.
4. When reading, pause to ask questions or comment on the story. Ask, "Why do you think he did that?" or "What do you think is going to happen next?"
5. Use interesting and new words with children. For example, "This cookie is scrumptious! It is really good!" or "I can see you're reluctant to leave, but we can come back tomorrow."
6. Read stories such as *The Three Bears* or *Three Billy Goats Gruff*. Act out the stories

using small, medium and large stuffed animals. Find other items that are large, medium and small. Ask children to classify the items according to size.

7. Play "I Spy" using words that describe an object's position. ("I spy something on the carpet, in front of the couch, next to the dog") Expand this activity by playing "Simon Says" using directional words. ("Simon says put your hand above your Head.")
8. "The Picky Puppet" Using a favorite puppet, explain that the puppet is picky – he only likes things that start with a certain letter. For example, "he only likes things that start with the letter T." Give children some examples of things that begin with the letter. Then have children look around the house/classroom (or around the neighborhood during a walk) and tell you things that begin with that letter. Introduce a new letter for the puppet to be picky about each day.

*Excerpted from: Talking Counts! (2021). from <https://www.readingrockets.org/article/talking-counts> and From the West Bloomfield Township Public Library Counting the Days 'til Kindergarten Calendar, part of the Grow Up Reading™ ([www.growupreading.org](http://www.growupreading.org)) early literacy initiative.*

## Free Clock Hours and Networking

### Don't miss MPT's Early Learning Social

Early educators, MPT invites you to Early Learning Social, a new virtual space to learn together as we explore topics and share resources that help make your job a little easier.



Join us on the first Thursday of each month for this professional development and networking series. Throughout the year we'll offer a range of FREE events, some that offer clock hours and others that offer fun and lively discussions.

Visit [Thinkport.org/social](http://Thinkport.org/social) to view the schedule of events and to register.



# Maryland's CACFP: Serving Children Healthy Meals

Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)



**\$41,340**

The annual, maximum reimbursement a **Child Care Center** could receive for serving 25 free-eligible participants Breakfast, Lunch, and a PM snack 5 days a week.



## Child Care Centers

Call 410-767-0199 to determine your eligibility or visit [eatsmartmaryland.org](http://eatsmartmaryland.org) for more information.



*Nutritious Meals*



*Core of Knowledge Hours*

MARYLAND EXCELS

*Increase your EXCELS rating level*



*Nutrition Education*



## Family Child Care Homes

Contact a Maryland Sponsoring Organization to Get Started



**\$7,456**

The annual, maximum reimbursement a **Family Child Care Provider** could receive for serving 6 Tier I participants Breakfast, Lunch and a snack, 5 days a week.

Sponsoring Organization	Phone Number
Cecil County Government	410-996-0252
Family League of Baltimore City	443-423-0912
Frederick Community Action Agency	301-600-3263
Montgomery County Public Schools	301-284-4937
Prince George's County Public Schools	301-780-5810
The Planning Council	757-622-9268 x 3036



MSDE and USDA are equal opportunity providers

Office of School and Community Nutrition Programs  
410-767-0199

Revised January 2021

## Maryland Child Care Boost



**MARYLAND  
FAMILY  
NETWORK**

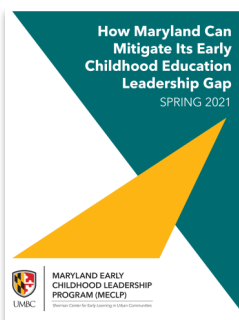
Maryland Family Network (MFN) has launched “Maryland Child Care Boost,” a pilot program to equip select family child care providers with free tools to help them remain fully enrolled, financially sound, and focused on the high-quality care and education of our youngest learners. The program launched with 60 family child care providers from Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties and Baltimore City. MFN and the Child Care Resource Centers are running the project together. Currently providers are being trained on and implementing Wonderschool, a child care management system. Learn more at <https://www.childcareboost.com/>.

## Prince George’s CCR&R Held Up as National Example

As the COVID-19 pandemic inundated the child care system, Child Care Aware of America received funds from the Center for Disaster Philanthropy to support and provide relief to Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) member organizations across the country. In the summer and fall of 2020, Child Care Aware used the funds to provide CCR&Rs with

resources to meet pressing needs within their communities. We’re pleased to say that this report highlights the work being done by Prince George’s Child Resource Center. [https://info.childcareaware.org/blog/covid-19-ccrr-successes-during-unprecedented-times?hs\\_amp=true&\\_\\_twitter\\_impression=true](https://info.childcareaware.org/blog/covid-19-ccrr-successes-during-unprecedented-times?hs_amp=true&__twitter_impression=true)

## How can Maryland grow more early childhood leaders to overcome the leadership gap?



As early childhood education systems evolve incrementally, one segment which has been elevated over the past few years, centers on the workforce in need of improving the working conditions, career pathways, and adequate compensation, especially for those early educators working in privately operated or non-profit early childhood programs. The paper, [How Maryland Can Mitigate Its Early Childhood Education Leadership Gap](#), argues that MECLP’s contribution will fill a critical leadership gap in early education which will be exacerbated by the passage of the [Blueprint for Maryland’s Future](#) landmark legislation.

Read the full [report](#).

# CARD SALE

ready at five™

Lg. Domain Card ~~\$1.50ea~~ \$0.75ea

Sm. School Card ~~\$0.45~~ \$0.23ea

Shipping - Based on order

Ready At Five is here to help parents and caregivers build school readiness with our very popular Domain Cards. Available in English and Spanish, they highlight fun and easy to do at home activities that focus on the skills our youngest learners need to succeed. Save 50% when you order today!

Contact: Monique Baskerville 410/788-5725 or  
Email: [monique@readyatfive.org](mailto:monique@readyatfive.org)

# A S S O C I A T I O N S



Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children

Membership in the Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children (MDAEYC) is open to any interested individual. As a proud affiliate of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, MDAEYC is here to help YOU on the journey to improve educational opportunities for all young children.

[mdaeyc.org](http://mdaeyc.org) | [@mdaeyc1](https://twitter.com/mdaeyc1)

## The Leading Men Fellowship is Looking For Applicants

The **Leading Men Fellowship** is helping to diversify the teacher pipeline by engaging young men of color (ages 18-24) in exploring a career in Early Childhood Education. Fellows are placed in a PreK classroom in Baltimore City and implement daily literacy interventions with their students. Through this year-long, residency-style program, Fellows become role models and change agents in their communities who support the growth of young students, while transforming the trajectories of their own lives. [Find more information and our application.](#)



If you know a young man who would be a great fit for the program, please encourage him to apply! To make a referral, ask any questions, or have The Literacy Lab visit your school or organization to present this opportunity, please email Nick Picciotto at [npicciotto@theliteracylab.org](mailto:npicciotto@theliteracylab.org).

### MSFCCA Mission:

The mission of the Maryland State Family Child Care Association (MSFCCA) is to educate, unify and advocate to strengthen the profession of family child care; enriching the lives of providers, children, families and communities.



### MSFCCA Vision:

We envision MSFCCA as leaders and experts that empower and support family child care providers with continual professional growth, networking opportunities, and collaborative relationships with stakeholders in order to enrich Family Child Care.

[msfcca.org](http://msfcca.org) | [contact@msfcca.org](mailto:contact@msfcca.org) | 240-994-0292

## Professional Membership. Professional Development. Advocacy for the Profession.

The Maryland State Child Care Association (MSCCA) is the premiere professional association for licensed child care and early learning centers operating in Maryland and for associated businesses, individuals that support the mission of the Association.

### Why Become a Member?

- ◇ Pay one affordable center membership fee and gain Professional Activity Units (PAUs) for your full staff
- ◇ Receive continuous, cutting edge communication through social media and emails



- ◇ MSCCA members have dedicated, registered state lobbyists
- ◇ Receive discounts on training and conferences
- ◇ Grant opportunities offered for members only

[mscca.org](http://mscca.org) | [info@mscca.org](mailto:info@mscca.org) | 410-820-9196 | Christina Peusch, Executive Director

# Calling All Maryland Early Educators!



The Council for Professional Recognition, Maryland State Department of Education and Maryland Family Network have partnered to offer funding to help you earn or renew your Child Development Associate® (CDA) credential. Join the community of nearly 1 million early educators that have demonstrated their commitment to ECE for over 45 years!

## Here's what you need to know...

**ELIGIBILITY** All registered family child care providers and licensed child care center staff who work in Maryland.

**COST** CDA® funding covers: (a) \$425 initial online assessment fee; (b) \$125 renewal online application fee; (c) \$33 for *The Child Development Associate® (CDA) National Credentialing Program and CDA® Competency Standards* book for the following settings: Preschool, Infant-Toddler and Family Child Care.

**DEADLINE** Funding is limited, we encourage you to submit applications as early as possible.

Learn more and apply by visiting:  
[www.marylandfamilynetwork.org/providers-cda](http://www.marylandfamilynetwork.org/providers-cda)



MARYLAND  
FAMILY  
NETWORK

*This advertisement was produced as a work for hire for the benefit of, and with funds from, the Maryland State Department of Education.*

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## Zero to Three Critical Competencies for Infant-Toddler Educators

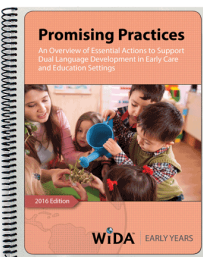
Calling all Infant-Toddler Educators...

The Critical Competencies for Infant-Toddler Educators 45-hour course, is now available. These in-depth training modules were developed to fill the gaps for infant-toddler educators and cover Social Emotional Development, Cognitive Development and Language/Literacy Development.

Providers credentialed at a level 2 or higher are eligible to apply for a training voucher to attend the 45-hour Critical Competencies training.

For more information on training dates and to find a trainer, visit: [infanttoddlercc.com](http://infanttoddlercc.com)

## WIDA



Learn more about working with dual language learners by taking the free trainings from WIDA Early Years. WIDA Early Years is an evidence-based program focused specifically on the language development of young multilingual children, often referred to as dual language learners, in early care and education (ECE) settings.

Trainings are available at: [earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/wida](http://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/wida)

## Special Needs Technical Assistance and Training for Caregivers of Infants/Toddlers



## Sign Up for Free Monthly Training



Near the end of each month, Maryland EXCELS participants receive an email to sign up for virtual training for the coming month. Training slots are limited and fill up quickly.

Training is provided by Maryland EXCELS Quality Assurance Specialists and offers Core of Knowledge hours (except Google Meet training). Strengthening Business Practices and There is an "I" in Quality are among the 9 training topics available.

Over 2,700 Maryland EXCELS providers have attended virtual training from June 2020 through June 2021.

Be on the lookout for the training email to sign up.

## Project Security Blanket REFRESH Course

REFRESH is a three-hour review course on the emergency planning process used for the development and utilization of the Project Security Blanket emergency plan for child care programs.

If it has been a while since you took the original training, this course is for you.

The course ensures that you have the most current information concerning your emergency preparedness plan.

This course does not take the place of the required 6 hour training.

For registration information, email Peg Anawalt at [atmanawalt@chesapeake.edu](mailto:atmanawalt@chesapeake.edu).

## Strengthening Business Practices

Interested in improving your business practices as a child care center and family child care provider. Take the Strengthening Business Practices training modules and learn how.

To find a trainer, visit: [earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/](http://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/)

# CRITICAL COMPETENCIES

## INFANT & TODDLER TEACHERS

**What does it take to prepare Maryland's children for the future?**

Explore the specific knowledge and practices Infant-Toddler educators need in order to provide high quality care and education to young children and prepare them for school and life success.

### Social-Emotional Development



Teach young children how to form friendships, communicate emotions and deal with challenges.

### Cognitive Development



Provide environments and experiences that offer a mix of newness, familiarity, and appropriate challenges that promote learning.

### Language & Literacy Development



Help children develop their language and literacy skills through everyday moments.

Visit [www.infanttoddlercc.com](http://www.infanttoddlercc.com) to learn more and sign up for the ZERO TO THREE Critical Competencies for Infant-Toddler Educators

**VIRTUAL  
ONE-DAY  
EVENT**

THURS  
**05**  
AUG

KEYNOTE SPEAKER  
**DAREN  
GRAVES**

JOIN US FOR

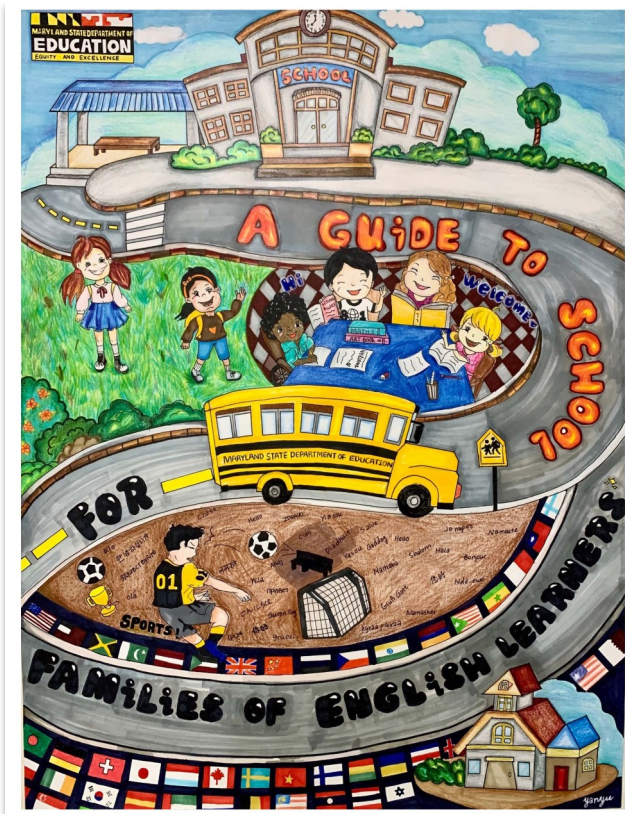
## Building Back Together: Reimagining Family Engagement

### DAREN GRAVES

Associate Professor of Education and Social Work at Simmons University and Adjunct Lecturer of Education at Harvard Graduate School of Education

REGISTER NOW! AUGUST 5, 2021 • 10:00AM - 3:45PM  
For more information, visit: [marylandfamiliesengage.org](http://marylandfamiliesengage.org)





## A Guide to School for Families of English Learners

In partnership with MSDE's Title III Office, the Maryland State Advisory Council for English Learners has released *A Guide to School for Families of English Learners* for families new to the country and families of English learners. This guide, which provides resources for families beginning in early childhood, has been developed to help families understand the school system and offers suggestions for how to support children's learning and family engagement. This guide provides information about Maryland's early childhood system, including how to enroll a child in early childhood programs, support transition to school, and connect parents and families to additional supports.

Available in Spanish and English.



Division of Early Childhood  
Office of Child Care  
200 West Baltimore Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201-2595

### IMPACT

A publication from the  
Maryland State Department  
of Education

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State Superintendent of Schools

**Steven Hicks**

Assistant State Superintendent

Division of Early Childhood

**Clarence C. Crawford**

President, Maryland State Board of  
Education

**Larry Hogan**

Governor

**Alexis D. Washington**

Editor-in-Chief

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[www.MarylandPublicSchools.org](http://www.MarylandPublicSchools.org)