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STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD



Connecticut Office of
Early Childhood

Beth Bye
Commissioner

Memorandum

To: The Education Committee
From: Commissioner Beth Bye, Office of Early Childhood
Re: OEC Report – P.A. 22-118, Sec. 459
Date: January 19, 2024

The Office of Early Childhood submits a report pursuant to C.G.A Sec. 10-510 (P.A. 22-118, Sec. 459). The Act requires the Office of Early Childhood to establish and administer the Start Early - Early Child Development Initiative. Sec. (e) requires the OEC to submit an annual report to the Education Committee. The language follows:

(e) The office shall develop an annual report concerning the data and outcome measures for the initiative. The report shall include, but need not be limited to, achievement of the elements outlined in the Connecticut Early Learning and Development Standards as reported in the accompanying assessment tool. The office may develop recommendations for modifications to the early education system based on an evaluation of such data and outcome measures. Not later than January 1, 2023, and annually thereafter, the office shall submit, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, such report and any such recommendations to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education.

The following is a status report on the Start Early – Early Childhood Development Initiative.

Start Early- Early Child Development Initiative has progressed from planning and is moving on to research and study. This has included:

- The UCONN Early Childhood researchers/professors have completed their research design, and the MOA is in its final stages of approval. UCONN's study will conduct research in infant and toddler classrooms, focused on low- and mixed-income communities in Hartford and New Haven. The study shall examine the effects of collaboration between the existing federal and state models for the Early Head Start and Head Start Programs and the Models for Maternal Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) programs. The study seeks to determine if enhanced collaboration among programs, through the work of a parent consultant, yields better outcomes especially in the social emotional and language/communication domains for approximately 300 of the 600 studied children at age three. The study also seeks to determine if these two generational systems offer enhanced support for the children's families.

- The TMW Center for Early Learning + Public Health has completed its design study, which will capture and quantify “best practices/standards” in infant/toddler early childhood education (ECE) settings and shall identify more effective strategies to support educators and improve early learning and school readiness outcomes for children.
- The TMW Center for Early Learning+ Public Health and OEC have an executed contract and the initial stages of study have begun implementation. Currently, TMW is finalizing job descriptions to hire staff in Connecticut to manage the daily operations of the study and work with OEC staff to ensure that the study and final product complement and support the work that OEC is engaged in.
- Both the UCONN and The TMW Center for Early Learning+ Public Health will work with children and families who are utilizing new infant and toddler spaces as either controls or subjects in study.

If you have any questions, please contact Maggie Adair, Director of Government & Community Relations at 860-878-8936, or maggie.adair@ct.gov

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