

KENTUCKY BOARD OF EDUCATION
June 5, 2013
Report from the Secretary
Education and Workforce Development Cabinet

Early Childhood

May 17 was a milestone for the Governor's Office of Early Childhood. The secretaries of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services and the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet brought together the leadership of all the agencies with some responsibility for the health and development of young children for a briefing on the status of Kentucky's early childhood efforts. The success of individual programs can be achieved only through a collective team effort of the agencies represented at the meeting. The Governor's Office of Early Childhood works across systems to help families and communities support the success of the whole child.

School Readiness: Community Early Childhood Councils

Local Community Early Childhood Councils (CECCs) are collaborating with local school districts and schools to create shared strategies for improving readiness of all children. Local Councils are voluntary groups that include school district leadership, schools, child care, early intervention programs, children's librarians, Head Start and others. Strategies may include improving the quality of early care and education programs, increasing professional learning opportunities for early childhood educators, hosting literacy events for parents of preschoolers, helping families transition to kindergarten, distributing Parent Guides and the Kindergarten Readiness definition at community events and more. In 2012, there were 69 active CECCs serving 105 Counties. Our goal is to have Councils in all 120 counties.

2013 Early Childhood Profile

One tool that we have made available to local early childhood advocates through CECCs is the 2013 Early Childhood Profile, crafted by the Data Workgroup of the Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC), chaired by State Board Member and ECAC member Brigitte Ramsey. Working with KDE, the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, and the Kentucky Center Education and Workforce Statistics we have provided local kindergarten readiness data (for counties that participated in the pilot), state readiness data, demographic data, information about the quality of child care, professional development, children at risk, and more. Profiles for each county may be found at http://kidsnow.ky.gov/School_readiness/Pages/profiles.aspx or <http://kcews.ky.gov/reports/earlychildhoodprofiles/>

Children are more likely to succeed in school and in life and to reach proficiency in reading and math when they enter school cognitively, socially and emotionally ready. Together, we are working to support the best possible start for our youngest learners in every community and every school district across the Commonwealth.