



All New Haven children, birth through 8 are healthy, safe, thriving in nurturing families and prepared to be successful lifelong learners.

New Haven Early Childhood Council 2015 Legislative Agenda

Support the early childhood education workforce; well-educated teachers are crucial to the overall quality of a child's preschool experience.

Facts:

- Effective July 1, 2015 half of the head teachers in School Readiness and other state funded classrooms will be required to have a Bachelor's degree; in 2020 all head teachers must have a bachelor's degree.
- Early childhood teachers are among the lowest paid workers. Hiring and retaining properly credentialed teachers is difficult.
- There is little incentive for teachers to pursue a degree when there is no financial incentive to do so.
- Low wages are the cause of high turnover of staff, which impacts the quality of the program for the children.

What you can do:

- Ensure regular increases in School Readiness rates and Care4Kids, which would enable programs to pay higher wages.
- Ensure adequate scholarship support for teachers so they can afford to meet the education requirement.

Support administrative oversight to ensure quality and fulfill legislative requirements in School Readiness programs.

Facts:

- New Haven receives almost \$8 million to fund 1080 School Readiness spaces. It receives only \$100,000 in administrative funds to oversee the School Readiness funds and programs.
- The administrative fee for Priority School Districts is set legislatively at \$100,000 regardless of the dollar amount of the School Readiness Grant, so that a district with a \$500,000 grant receives the same funding to provide oversight as a district that receives an \$8,000,000 grant.

What you can do:

- Propose and support changing the formula for administrative funds to be based on a reasonable percentage of the grant.

Support continued funding for Community Plans through the Office of Early Childhood budget.

Facts:

- There is \$750,000 in the OEC line item called "community plans for early childhood". Community Plans have been developed for many years; New Haven published theirs in 2009 and it continues to guide our work.
- The \$20,833 we receive supports the early childhood infrastructure that enables the New Haven Early Childhood Council to improve the quality of early care and education in New Haven, expand access to programs and services for young children and their families, and ensure more children are ready for kindergarten.
- Without these funds, the Council will not be able to work with its partners to:
 - Create a preK enrollment process that is easily understood and navigated by families.
 - Ensure that early childhood education programs are relationship-based and trauma informed to support the emotional health of young children.
 - Pilot a program in 12 preK and kindergarten classrooms in NHPS focused on the development of executive function skills in children. Research shows that children need these skills to be successful students.
 - Ensure that families, caregivers and providers have the information they need to support children aged 0 to 3 to be happy, healthy, whole and safe and reach their full potential.

What you can do:

- Ensure that this line item remains intact so that these funds continue to support the work we are committed to doing for New Haven's young children and their families.

