

Connecting the PIECES Plan

This document is a reformatted, screen reader–accessible version of the original Connecting the PIECES Plan PDF. It uses built-in Word styles, a logical reading order, and clear structure for assistive technologies.

Purpose of the Plan

The Connecting the PIECES Plan focuses on strengthening the early care and education (ECE) system through workforce development, funding reforms, community partnerships, and improved child outcomes.

Advocacy Priorities

Early Care and Education Workforce Pathways

- Support ECE apprenticeships and alternative certification pathways.
- Expand child care subsidy categorical eligibility for providers.
- Fund real-world learning and Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs focused on early care and education.

Funding and Financial Supports

- Reimburse providers based on the true cost of quality rather than market rates.
- Provide grant funding, child care exchanges, and tax credits for employers.

Funding and Coordination Priorities

- Launch childcare tuition cost-sharing model
- Create regional wage supplements tied to educator credentials and degrees.
- Research or create cooperative cost-saving initiatives.
- Establish strong coordination and engagement pathways.

Workforce Priorities

- Recruit potential early educators through targeted outreach to youth and adults in the community.
- Support ECE students by providing easy access to information about available programs and resources.

Priorities for Supporting Practicing Early Educators

- Provide guidance on high-quality learning experiences via ECEinKC.org.

- Launch community-based submission and review processes to encourage dialogue.

Data and Metrics Priorities

Workforce and Capacity

- Document number of wage supplements awarded,
- Cost-savings achieved through cooperative initiatives, and
- Number of new child care spots created.

Workforce Development

- Identify ECE workforce needs.
- Document ECE workforce credentials awarded.

Child Outcomes

Report on child outcomes

Plain-Language Executive Summary

The Connecting the PIECES Plan is a community effort to make child care and early learning stronger, more affordable, and easier to access for families, while also supporting the people who work in early care and education.

The plan focuses on three big goals: growing and supporting the early education workforce, helping families and employers access child care, and improving experiences and outcomes for young children.

- For families: The plan works to increase the number of high-quality child care options, lower financial barriers, and ensure children benefit from strong early learning experiences.
- For early educators: The plan supports better pay, clearer career pathways, and access to training, credentials, and community resources.
- For employers and policymakers: The plan promotes partnerships, shared funding strategies, and data-driven decision-making to strengthen the entire early care and education system.

Overall, Connecting the PIECES brings together families, educators, employers, and community partners to build a more stable, high-quality early care and education system that benefits children today and the region's workforce tomorrow.