



South Carolina Early Childhood Advisory Council

OUR VISION

We will be successful when all children reach their highest potential.

OUR SHARED GOALS

South Carolina's children arrive at school ready to reach their highest potential.

South Carolina's youngest children are healthy and safe.

South Carolina's youngest children are actively supported by their families and communities.

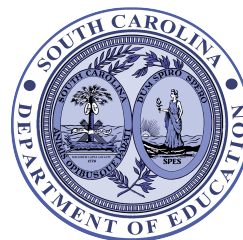
Vision and goals for South Carolina's Birth through Five State System, as adopted by the South Carolina ECAC

ABOUT US

The South Carolina Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) includes the directors of state agencies and government entities that provide services to young children including the Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Social Services, Department of Education, Department of Health and Environmental Control, South Carolina First Steps (SCFS), Department of Disabilities and Special Needs, Children's Trust of S.C., and S.C. Head Start Collaboration Office. SCFS is the connector and convener of all early childhood serving agencies.

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Healthy Connections
MEDICAID



SC Code § 63-11-1725 (2016)

with the Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007, 42 U.S.C. Section 9837b

THE PURPOSE OF THE ECAC IS TO CARRY OUT THE FOLLOWING FUNCTIONS

Conduct a periodic statewide needs assessment concerning the quality and availability of early childhood education and development programs and services for children from birth to the age of school entry, including an assessment of the availability of high-quality prekindergarten services for low-income children in the State;

Identify opportunities for, and barriers to, collaboration and coordination among federally funded and state-funded child development, child care, and early childhood education programs and services, including collaboration and coordination among state agencies responsible for administering these programs;

Develop recommendations for increasing the overall participation of children in existing federal, state, and local child care and early childhood education programs, including outreach to underrepresented and special populations;

Develop recommendations regarding the establishment of a unified data collection system for public early childhood education and development programs and services throughout the State;

Develop recommendations regarding statewide professional development and career advancement plans for early childhood educators in the State;

Assess the capacity and effectiveness of two-year and four-year public and private institutions of higher education in the State for supporting the development of early childhood educators, including the extent to which these institutions have in place articulation agreements, professional development and career advancement plans, and practice or internships for students to spend time in a Head Start or prekindergarten program;

Make recommendations for improvements in state early learning standards and undertake efforts to develop high-quality comprehensive early learning standards, as appropriate;

Develop and publish, using available demographic data, an indicators-based measure of school readiness at the state and community level;

Incorporate, within the periodic statewide needs assessments required in 42 U.S.C. Section 9837b, any data related to the capacity and efforts of private sector providers, Head Start providers, and local school districts to serve children from birth to age five, including fiscal, enrollment, and capacity data; and

Perform all other functions, as permitted under federal and state law, to improve coordination and delivery of early childhood education and development to children in this State.
