



TRANSFORMING KANSAS CITY'S EARLY LEARNING SYSTEM

THROUGH SHARED PLANNING AND COLLECTIVE ACTION

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Inadequate Funding

Currently Missouri's subsidy reimbursement rates are ranked 49/50 states for family childcare programs and around 39/50 states for center-based care, depending on the age of the child. (Administration for Children and Families). Rate is 58% of the market rate.

Unaffordable Tuition

In Wyandotte County, the cost of childcare, for private pay families, is 43% of the median household income (Child Care Aware of Kansas).

Unmet Need

According to data from Child Care Aware of Kansas and Child Care Aware of Missouri, the Kansas City Region's early learning programs only have the capacity to serve half of our young children.



THE CURRENT CONTEXT

Low Compensation

In 2022, early educators in the Kansas City workforce development area earned an average of \$13.91/hour compared to an average of \$15.40 for comparison occupations which include waitstaff, cashiers, custodians, and fast-food workers. (Missouri Research and Information Center)

Teacher Shortages

Using a 10:1 child to teacher ratio for Head Start and 4:1 ratio for Early Head Start, we would need 220 new early educators (61 Head Start and 159 Early Head Start in centers to close the waiting list or 207 more home-based childcare educators (6:1 ratio used).

Opportunity to Improve Quality

There are 13 programs with NAEYC accreditation and 0 with NAFCC accreditation. In comparison, in Bridgeport, CT (population 148,529) there are 30 NAEYC accredited centers and 8 NAFCC accredited homes.

SOME BENEFITS OF A HIGH PERFORMING EARLY LEARNING SYSTEM

Research shows an increased likelihood for academic achievement, high school graduation, employment, higher earnings, and stable housing, including home ownership, by attending a high-quality early learning program (Schweinhart, et al., 2011)

Additionally, adults that attended a high-quality early learning program also were far less likely to be arrested for property, drug, and violent crimes or become incarcerated through age 40. (Schweinhart, et al., 2011)

There is increased participation in the workforce when there is more childcare available and mothers who earn low-wages are more likely to end their employment when there is a disruption in childcare. (Equitable Growth)

Changed life trajectories.

Safer communities.

A strengthened economy.

Growth, E. (2021). Factsheet: What the research says about the economics of early care and education.

Schweinhart, L. J. (2011). The High/Scope Perry Preschool study through age 40: Summary, conclusions, and frequently asked questions. High/Scope Educational Research Foundation.

HOW WE'LL GET THERE

MARC ALONG WITH THE CIVIC COUNCIL OF GREATER KANSAS CITY, KIDS WIN MISSOURI AND KANSAS ACTION FOR CHILDREN WILL PARTNER TO CONVENE A REGIONAL STRATEGIC PLANNING PROJECT.

Components

- Steering committee of diverse stakeholder groups to set measurable and attainable goals
- Work groups to develop plans of actions for the goals
- Public facing events to gain public support and feedback
- Deliverable: An actionable road map



SOME SPECIFICS

- Anticipating an 11-month process
- Working from an international framework for high-performing early learning systems

High-Performing ECEC Systems



Kagan, S. L. (2019). *The Early Advantage 2—Building Systems That Work for Young Children*. International Insights from Innovative Early Childhood Systems. Teachers College Press. 1234 Amsterdam Avenue, New York, NY 10027.



ANY QUESTIONS?