TEAM KENTUCKY®

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD

Interim Joint Committee on Families and Children

October 21, 2026

TEAM KENTUCKY®

EDUCATION AND LABOR CABINET

Coordination and Alignment

- The umbrella agency for early care and education, unifying early childhood programs, services and agencies across the commonwealth.
- The Governor's Office of Early Childhood is the Early Childhood Advisory Council's support office.
- Increased coordination among local communities through data-driven strategies and partnerships.
- Supports the early childhood workforce through the implementation of workforce initiatives and professional learning opportunities.

The Role of the Council and Office

Workforce Pathways

- Early Childhood Registered Apprenticeship Program
- Kentucky Early Childhood Standards
- Cross-sector professional development

Local Coordination

- Regional Collaborative Network
- Community-informed priorities
- Data-informed strategies and local partnerships

State Coordination

- Collaboration with state early childhood partners
- Shared priorities and aligned messaging
- Identification pf service gaps and possible duplication

Early Childhood Registered Apprenticeship

- A structured “earn while you learn” program for Kentucky’s early childhood workforce.
- Nationally recognized exemplar program.
- Four occupations.
- 70 employer partners across 37 counties.
- 127 Registered Apprentices have completed the program.
- Currently 172 in the program.

Professional Development

Cross-sector, high-quality professional development

- Early Childhood Institutes and targeted events provide required training hours for 2,000 participants annually.
- Coaching and technical assistance is provided for specific professional development, reaching nearly 3,000 in the early childhood workforce.
- Kentucky Early Childhood Standards provides the foundation across all early childhood settings.
- Professional learning is developed directly with the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Kentucky Department of Education, and Head Start agencies.

Local Communities

The Regional Collaborative Network

- Brings together local organizations to address locally identified early childhood needs.
- Communities use local data to identify service gaps, develop solutions, and build on successful practices.
- Helps connect statewide priorities to local implementation while recognizing that needs and resources differ across counties and regions.
- Local data used for implementation of data-driven strategies to meet local needs.
- Aligned with Local Workforce Development Boards.

Families

- Families are active participants of the Regional Collaborative Network and Family Councils.
- Families receive resources and information for supporting their child's development.
- Regional Collaboratives provide services, resources, and support for local families through community partnerships.

State Partnerships

- Kentucky Department of Education
  - Public Preschool and Regional Training Centers

- Cabinet for Health and Family Services
  - Division of Child Care
  - Division of Regulated Child Care
  - Department for Public Health (Kentucky Early Intervention Services, HANDS home visitation)
  - Department for Behavioral Health
  - Department for Community Based Services

- Kentucky Head Start Collaboration Office
  - Local Head Start and Early Head Start Grantees

Coordination

- Priorities and strategies are aligned through strong partnerships with state early childhood agencies across the birth to five continuum.
- Local partnerships help develop strategies based on local community needs tied directly to local data.
- State agency members are an integral part of the Early Childhood Advisory Council and are active partners in planning and implementation.

Key Points

The Early Childhood Advisory Council and its support office, the Governor's Office of Early Childhood:

- Connects and partners with state agencies and communities.
- Supports workforce capacity through apprenticeships and professional learning.
- Helps local partners respond to needs through the Regional Collaborative Network.