

**NYS Early Childhood Advocacy Initiative**  
**Policy Recommendations**

**Priority 1:** New York's health, mental health, education, child care, social services, and safety net systems are connected through shared data and programmatic coordination, and have sufficient funding to meet the needs of families and providers.

- Develop an integrated data system that all agencies have access to (NYSED, OCFS, OTDA, DOMH, DOH), which includes child-specific, program-level, and workforce-level data, and that will improve program coordination across agencies and support community-level efforts to coordinate early childhood services.
- Implement a comprehensive development inventory at school entry with the involvement of the health care system and connect it to developmental screening and referrals to treatment.
- Improve child and family transitions between Early Intervention and Preschool Special Education.

**Priority 2:** Low-income families with young children are provided with opportunities to achieve economic security and better integrate into their communities.

- Strengthen tax credits available to low-income families with young children.
- Promote higher education policies that are supportive of parents of young children.
- Increase access to adult education programs for parents of young children that promote dual generation approach.
- Ensure the 2020 census accurately captures the number of infants and toddlers in New York State.

**Priority 3:** All families have supported access to programs that value strong and positive relationships with families and ensure that parents and children receive both screenings and a comprehensive and complementary set of services that promote maternal health and child development.

- Increase access to high-quality prenatal and perinatal care, especially for those most at-risk of poor outcomes, including women of color.
- Expand access to evidence-based, maternal, infant, and early childhood home visitation programs that provide coaching and connections to community-based services and programs.
- Regularly screen all children for developmental delays, social-emotional concerns, lead, and other needs and once delays/needs are detected, provide families with resources and supports to access appropriate services.

**Priority 4:** All families have access to and are supported in accessing affordable, high-quality, safe, and culturally responsive child care and early learning that are supported by a universal, transparent quality rating and improvement system.

- Expand access to child care so that low-income families who qualify for child care assistance receive it and are able to enroll in a high-quality program.
- Implement a universal, transparent quality rating and improvement system, QUALITYstarsNY.
- Ensure young children have access to highly-qualified, well-compensated, and diverse teachers.
  - Offer career pathways for child care providers.
  - Increase wages so careers as child care providers are sustainable.
  - Increase professional development opportunities for child care providers.
  - Increase support for parents to access high quality child care and engage in early learning experiences with their children
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