

# *Missouri Coordinating Board for Early Childhood (CBEC)*

Missouri's Coordinating Board for Early Childhood was established under Section 210.102.2 RSMo for the purpose of coordinating a cohesive system of early childhood programs and services intended to support the healthy development and school readiness of all Missouri children from birth through age five.



## *Vision*

All young children in Missouri are safe, healthy and capable of reaching their full potential.

## *Mission*

To ensure that Missouri's early childhood programs and services are comprehensive, coordinated, accessible, adequately funded and of the highest quality to meet the needs and to promote the well-being of all young children and their families. This can be accomplished by (a) developing key partnerships, (b) building collaborative strategies and (c) ensuring equal access to necessary resources, resulting in the implementation of an effective and sustainable early childhood system.

## *Guiding Principles*

The priorities and strategies employed by the CBEC in achieving its mission reflect a core set of values:

- Early childhood is the life period of most intensive development where both positive and negative factors have the greatest impact.
  - Effective programs for young children respond to the totality of a child's development, not just one aspect.
  - Children with disabilities or other special needs are best served in natural environments and inclusive programs, rather than separate, clinical, or disability-focused settings.
  - Family involvement and engagement is essential to meeting the needs of young children; effective early childhood programs invite and support parents as fully engaged partners in the design and delivery of services.
  - High quality programs that are informed by research are the most effective.
  - Practices, programs, and professionals are culturally responsive, inclusive and accessible to all children.
  - Investments in prevention and early intervention are the most cost effective use of public funds.
  - The coordination of programs and services across the state, communities and agencies results in administrative efficiencies, greater impact of services and more convenience for families.



## ***CBEC's work:***

***Engaging the Business Community:*** The CBEC facilitates regular meetings explicitly focused on galvanizing the business community around supporting early childhood.

***Head Start Data Pilot:*** The CBEC contracted with the University of Missouri to support Head Start Program participation in Missouri's Early Childhood and P20 Longitudinal Data Systems (LDS).

***Missouri Early Learning Standards:*** The CBEC helped fund and support development of the Missouri Early Learning Standards, which include revisions to the existing standards for children ages 3 to kindergarten entry and expanding those standards for children birth to age three.

***Strategic Plan:*** Representatives from the CBEC and the Missouri Early Childhood Comprehensive System (ECCS) developed a strategic plan (available on the CBEC website), which serves as a blueprint for implementing a cohesive and effective early childhood state system.

***Partnerships:*** The CBEC proudly partners and collaborates with key entities and leaders in the state's early childhood community, including but not limited to, Early Childhood Comprehensive System (ECCS), Maternal and Infant Early Childhood Home Visitation (MIECHV), Missouri Prevention Partners (MPP), Missouri After School Network (MASN) and Missouri Head Start Association (MHSA).

***National Selection:*** The CBEC was one of five states awarded, and continues participation on a national forum concerning the important issue of Early Childhood Mental Health.

***Work Groups:*** Work groups are the action hubs for the CBEC. Please visit the CBEC website to learn about key accomplishments from each group: *Early Care and Education (ECE) Programs, Healthcare, Early Childhood Mental Health (ECMH),* and *Home Visitation (HV).*



\*Visit us at <http://dss.mo.gov/cbec/> for a list of CBEC members, work group accomplishments, CBEC policy priorities, the Strategic Plan and other links and resources.