

# B-3 Interagency Council



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA  
State Board of Education | Department of Public Instruction

## Our Charge:

***Establish a vision and accountability for a birth to third grade system of early education***

## What We Know:

- The years from birth through age eight are a critical developmental period that sets the stage for children's future success in school and beyond.
- Young children's physical, cognitive, social and emotional development are interrelated. Young children have the best opportunity to succeed in school when they have access to safe, nurturing and thriving families, schools and communities.
- North Carolina's early education system is one cornerstone of a broader system of strong family and community supports that optimize young children's healthy development and learning.

## Vision Statement suggestions:

### Option 1:

The Council's vision for a birth to third grade system of early education for North Carolina's children and families are supported by a seamless and aligned birth-through-eight early care and learning system that engages families; maximizes program, funding and administrative efficiencies; and is based on clear accountability and research-based, data-driven outcomes.

### Option 2:

A seamless continuum of high-quality birth to third grade education for all children and their families that is easy to navigate and access, supports young children's optimal learning and development, and values families as their children's first and best teachers.

## ***Discussion: Review the two vision statements above.***

1. *Underline words or phrases that stand out to you in each.*
2. *Discuss the words and phrases you like most and why.*
3. *Which of the two visions resonates most with you, and why?*
4. *What concepts, if any, are missing?*

## **Council Goals:**

### Option 1:

Adopt Pathways to Grade-Level Reading (named in Council legislation) relevant measures to track:

- **Increase the percent of young children with language skills on track at 24, 36, and 48 months**
  - Considerations for data and accountability workgroup: Need to develop specific measurement process and establish baseline; which children to track and how to use data
- **Increase the percent of children developmentally on track at kindergarten entry**
  - Considerations for data and accountability workgroup: Kindergarten Assessment Entry currently being administered; statewide data and reporting process not developed; which children to track and how to use data
- **Increase the percent of children meeting expected growth in reading K-3**
  - Considerations for data and accountability workgroup: What assessment source should be consistently used? What is collected now and how is the data used?
- **Increase the percent of children reading at grade level by end of third grade**
  - Considerations for data and accountability workgroup: What assessment source should be consistently used?
- **Increase the percent of children with disabilities achieving expressive and receptive communication goals commensurate with their developmental ages**
  - Considerations for data and accountability workgroup: What are the appropriate measures for children with disabilities?

### Option 2:

Establish new measures.

- Considerations for data and accountability workgroup: What outcomes should NC's birth to third grade early education system be held accountable for achieving? How do those outcomes align with other state planning efforts?

Option 3:

What part of the Council charge do you want to address now, later, recommendations:

The Council shall have as its charge establishing a vision and accountability for a birth through grade three system of early education that addresses all of the following:

- (1) Standards and assessment.
- (2) Data-driven improvement and outcomes, including shared accountability measures such as the NC Pathways to Grade-Level Reading.
- (3) Teacher and administrator preparation and effectiveness.
- (4) Instruction and environment.
- (5) Transitions and continuity.
- (6) Family engagement.
- (7) Governance and funding.

**"§ 115C-64.26. Powers and duties of B-3 Interagency Council.**

The B-3 Interagency Council shall have the following powers and duties:

- (1) Facilitating the development and implementation of an interagency plan for a coordinated system of early care, education, and child development services with a focus on program outcomes in satisfying the developmental and educational needs of all children from birth to eight years of age that includes at least the following:
  - a. Any recommendations to the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Superintendent of Public Instruction on necessary organizational changes needed within the Departments of Health and Human Services and Public Instruction to be more responsive to and supportive of the birth to grade three continuum of early learning and development in an effort to optimize learning gains realized in the prekindergarten years.
  - b. An early childhood information system that facilitates and encourages the sharing of data between and among early childhood service providers and State agencies.
  - c. An early childhood accountability plan that includes identification of appropriate population indicators and program and system performance measures of early success of children such as the NC Pathways to Grade-Level Reading.
- (2) Implementing a statewide longitudinal evaluation of the educational progress of children from prekindergarten programs through grade 12.
- (3) Collaborating with the Department of Public Instruction, the Department of Health and Human Services, the North Carolina Partnership for Children, and other relevant early childhood stakeholders, including members of the North Carolina Early Childhood Advisory Council, to achieve the goal of a coordinated system of early care, education, and child development services for children from birth to eight years of age.

The B-3 Interagency Council, established under G.S. 115C-64.25, as enacted by this section, shall undertake a rigorous review of the recommendations developed by the Departments of Health and Human Services and Public Instruction, pursuant to Section 12B.5 of S.L. 2016-94, on (i) the development and implementation of a statewide vision for early childhood education and (ii) the development and implementation of a program for transitioning children from preschool to kindergarten. In its review, the B-3 Interagency Council shall report to the General Assembly and the Governor suggested modifications, if any, to those recommendations. The B-3 Interagency Council shall also, if deemed necessary, make suggestions on alternative organizational structures to achieve greater efficiency and effective delivery of early childhood services, including a consolidation and restructuring of State agency divisions and offices located within the Department of Public Instruction and the Department of Health and Human Services into a centralized agency or office. The Council **shall** consider at least the following in conducting the review and study:

- (1) The delivery of educational services to young children and their families to ensure optimal learning for each young child.
- (2) The collaboration and sharing of data elements necessary to perform quality assessments and longitudinal analysis across early childhood education and development services.
- (3) The coordination of a comprehensive statewide system of professional development for providers and staff of early care and education and child development programs and services.
- (4) Areas of duplication in regulating and monitoring of early care and education and child development programs and services.
- (5) The coordination and support of public and private partnerships to aid early childhood initiatives.

**Discussion: Review the task/options for goals.**

1. *What tasks do you want to take on?*
2. *What are the advantages and disadvantages?*
3. *What guidance/charge would Council members like to provide to the data and accountability work group?*