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For Immediate Release

Kansas Early Childhood Strategic Plan Released

More than 6,100 Kansans representing each of our 105 counties contributed to a new strategic plan designed to move the state closer to the vision that Kansas is a place where all children have their basic needs met, have equitable access to quality early childhood care and education, and are prepared to succeed in kindergarten and beyond.

The Strategic Plan was developed through the Preschool Development Grant Birth Through Five (PDG B-5), awarded in late December 2018 to the Kansas State Department of Education, in collaboration with the Kansas Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, and the Kansas Department for Children and Families. The grant also funded a statewide needs assessment for early childhood, released in February 2020.

“Our plan reflects a rich and thorough analysis of our state’s unique needs, the result of countless conversations with Kansans, outlining our vision for an early childhood care and education system that ensures all Kansas children have the best possible start in life.” said Melissa Rooker, Executive Director of the Kansas Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund.

The Strategic Plan outlines seven goal areas calling for increased investments in the early childhood care and education workforce, overall capacity, and parent engagement activities, as well as continued efforts to strengthen partnerships with the private sector and align our system for maximum effectiveness in the delivery of high-quality services.

“The first five years of a child’s life are a critical window of opportunity to prepare them for lifelong success,” said Amanda Petersen, director of early childhood for the Kansas State Department of Education. “State leaders will continue gathering input from Kansans as we put this plan into action so that we can adapt and respond to local needs.”

The “All In For Kansas Kids” Strategic Plan and the Needs Assessment are currently available on the Kansas Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund website kschildrenscabinet.org.

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