



Mississippi State Early Childhood Advisory Council (SECAC) Committees 2021-2022

The committees of the SECAC for 2021-2022 were determined at the September 7th, 2021, council meeting from a discussion of current opportunities and challenges within the state early childhood system. Based on that discussion, the council will have at least five committees: 1) *workforce development and retention*, 2) *early intervention*, 3) *policy, accountability, and data*, 4) *family support and access*, and 5) *bylaws (ad hoc, short term)*.

Structure

All committee meetings will be public and include opportunities for public comment. Meetings will occur monthly, with meeting materials and minutes posted to the SECAC website.

Focus

The charge of these committees is to articulate the opportunities and challenges in the current early childhood system and make recommendations to the legislature and state administration for improvements. All committees will have responsibility for contributing to the asset mapping and strategic visioning in addition to the focus assigned below.

Committee and Description	2021-2022 Focus	Connection to Council Responsibilities per Statute
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<p>Workforce Development and Retention</p> <p>This committee will investigate the challenges and opportunities for Mississippi's early childhood workforce and make policy and program recommendations to improve professional development and career opportunities for early childhood educators.</p>	<p><u>Proposed issues this committee will investigate and make recommendations about include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing the number of well-trained individuals across all sectors of early childhood system • Improving the preservice/credential programs for general and special education to include more practical application of the knowledge base • Increasing provider access to professional learning for supporting children with special needs • Adopting professional standards • Strategies to address gaps in workforce development • Increasing compensation and retention (in child care, early intervention and other EC sectors) <p><u>Role in Asset Mapping and Strategic Visioning</u> <i>This committee will be responsible for assisting with the collection and analysis of workforce data, providing context to support interpretation, and making recommendations for strategic directions. Includes information such as demographics, qualifications, retention, compensation, professional development programs and supports, EC professionals' perspectives.</i></p>	<p>Develop recommendations regarding statewide professional development and career advancement for early childhood educators</p> <p>Assess the capacity and effectiveness of 2- and 4-year public and private institutions of higher education in Mississippi</p> <p>Make recommendations for improvements in the State Early Learning Guidelines</p>
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Committee and Description	2021-2022 Focus	Connection to Council Responsibilities per Statute
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<p>Early Intervention</p> <p><i>This committee will investigate the challenges and opportunities for Mississippi's families of children with special needs and the providers who support them. Recommendations for improvements to policy, programs, and systems will be made, focused on increasing developmental screenings and access to related services that support every child to realize their potential.</i></p>	<p><u>Proposed issues this committee will investigate and make recommendations about include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing developmental screenings and access to related services • Improving the funding structure of early intervention and early childhood special education • Increasing the capacity of the workforce to provide quality services to children with special needs and their families. <p><u>Role in Asset Mapping and Strategic Visioning</u> <i>This committee will be responsible for assisting with the collection and analysis of data regarding early intervention and early childhood special education system and services, providing context to support interpretation, and making recommendations for strategic directions. Includes information such as: numbers served, demographics, accessibility and quality of services, funding allocations, family and early intervention provider perspectives.</i></p>	<p>Identify opportunities for, and barriers to, collaboration and coordination across early childhood systems</p> <p>Develop recommendations for increasing overall participation of children and families in existing programs</p> <p>Ensure coordination among the various agencies and programs to achieve the goal of readiness to start school</p> <p>Facilitate communication, cooperation, and maximum use of resources and to promote high standards for all programs</p>
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<p>Policy, Accountability and Data</p> <p><i>This committee will investigate the challenges and opportunities for ensuring there is a strong data system (including feedback loops with families and the field) to inform policy, system, and program decisions that result in positive outcomes for children, families, and the providers who serve them.</i></p>	<p><u>Proposed issues this committee will investigate and make recommendations about include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process and support for ongoing quality improvements for all settings • Policy to practice feedback loops • Accountability for programs and services to maintain quality and impact outcomes for children and families • Longitudinal data system <p><u>Role in Asset Mapping and Strategic Visioning</u> <i>This committee will be the primary working group for the asset mapping project.</i></p>	<p>A periodic statewide needs assessment</p> <p>Develop recommendations regarding a statewide unified data system</p> <p>Facilitate communication, cooperation, and maximum use of resources and to promote high standards for all programs</p>
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Committee and Description	2021-2022 Focus	Connection to Council Responsibilities per Statute
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<p>Family Support and Access</p> <p><i>This committee will investigate the challenges and opportunities for Mississippi's families with young children in accessing the programs and services they need to successfully raise happy, healthy children, and make recommendations for reducing barriers to families accessing needed programs and services.</i></p>	<p><u>Proposed issues this committee will investigate and make recommendations about include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase access to CCPP for all families, removing burdensome requirements not federally mandated • Improve access to information and resources for families and providers • Supporting families in understanding all the programs and services that are available to them <p><u>Role in Asset Mapping and Strategic Visioning</u> <i>This committee will be responsible for providing data and context about the accessibility and experience for families interacting with Mississippi's early childhood systems. Includes information such as: Eligibility and enrollment policies and processes, numbers eligible, numbers served, demographics, family and provider perspectives.</i></p>	<p>Identify opportunities for, and barriers to, collaboration and coordination across early childhood systems</p> <p>Develop recommendations for increasing overall participation of children and families in existing programs</p> <p>Assist the State Department of Education with the implementation of the Early Learning Collaborative Act of 2013</p> <p>Ensure coordination among the various agencies and programs to achieve the goal of readiness to start school</p>
<p>Bylaws</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review current bylaws, recommend amendments 	<p>Carry out any responsibilities assigned to SECAC by the Governor and/or by applicable federal law</p>