



KANSAS

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

KATHLEEN SEBELIUS, GOVERNOR

July 18, 2007

I am proud to support the work Kansas has done through the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Plan grant. Kansas' plan provides a common language to talk about early childhood goals within the early childhood community, and with policy makers and business leaders. As a result, we have developed new partnerships and strengthened existing ones.

Expanding opportunities for early learning is one of my top priorities because of the positive impact those opportunities can have on a child's success in school and in life. Our efforts during the next year will focus on enhancing the effectiveness of early childhood programs through public/private partnerships. We are in the process of developing several grant proposals that will reach out to the business community and legislators to develop science-based initiatives and policies that provide families with children age birth to five with additional opportunities.

Our work so far has helped get early childhood on the radar of the Kansas Legislature and business leaders, and has contributed to several successes in the area of early learning. More than \$15 million in new funding for early childhood programs was included in this year's budget and the Kansas Legislature joined with me to create an Office of Early Childhood Education to help coordinate these efforts.

Kansas was awarded one of 10 grants from the National Governor's Association to support a Governor's Summit on Early Childhood. The summit will provide Kansas with an opportunity to continue the development of a coordinated early childhood system and to develop a scientific rationale for early childhood investments.

I wholeheartedly support the work of the Kansas Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Plan. In Kansas, we are pleased to have this opportunity to close the achievement gap in Kansas and give children the foundation they need to be successful in school and life.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Sebelius
Governor of the State of Kansas

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