



# *KECCS Update*


*August 2007*

---

## Early Childhood in Congress

The Congressional Joint Economic Committee heard testimony in June urging increased investment in early childhood programs and services. Speakers touted the economic impact of early childhood investments, including:

[Governor Kathleen Sebelius' testimony](#)  indicating strong support for the early childhood work that is being done in Kansas.

Dr. James Heckman's ( University of Chicago) testimony, ["Investing in Disadvantaged Young Children is Good Economics and Good Policy."](#)  which provided an economic perspective on public investment in early childhood.

## KECCS – The Plan in Action

Expanding Opportunities for Inclusion is an interagency collaboration among the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) in the U.S. Department of Education; the National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (NECTAC); the Administration on Developmental Disabilities in the Department of Health and Human Services; the Office of Head Start; and the Child Care Bureau. They selected three states, which included Kansas, to bring teams to participate in an Inclusion Pre-Institute on July 30th and 31st in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. The purpose of the Pre-Institute is to assist the state teams in building on existing state efforts to improve inclusive opportunities for young children with disabilities through the development and implementation of an action plan that will increase the number of young children with disabilities in inclusive programs, services and settings. The various states that are participating are expected to dedicate time and resources to following through on the state's action plan over the upcoming year.


The Kansas team participating in the Pre-Institute will include representatives from Part C Tiny-K Infant-Toddler Services (KDHE), Part B Section 619 3-5 (KSDE), Early Head Start, Head Start, Parents As Teachers, Kansas Administration on Developmental Disabilities, Child Care Assistance (SRS), Families Together, Inc., Kansas Division of Early Childhood (KDEC) and Kansas Inservice Training System (KITS).

We want to hear from you

How has the Plan influenced work in your agency or community? What has your agency done to contribute to the plan? How have you coordinated resources or reports with other agencies? Share your stories – there is no contribution too big or too small! Send your Plan in Action stories to [keccs@ku.edu](mailto:keccs@ku.edu), or by phone contact KECCS Program Assistant at (785) 864-7123.

## In the News

### **Legislative Post-Audit Report**

The Kansas Division of Legislative Post-Audit recently completed a review of early childhood programs in the State. The audit, “[Children’s Programs: Reviewing Whether They Are Coordinated to Avoid Duplication and Maximize the Use of Resources](#),”  examined a number of early childhood programs.

### **Kansas Coalition for School Readiness**

The [Kansas Coalition for School Readiness](#) launched their website earlier this month. The Coalition is a partnership of early learning advocates and practitioners, business leaders, parents, law enforcement, and other interested Kansans who have come together to support investment in early childhood education so that children are better prepared for success in school and beyond.

## Tips & Tools

[Strengthening Families Through Early Care and Education](#) by the [Center for the Study of Social Policy](#) provides a wealth of resources on strategies for preventing child abuse and neglect by focusing on protective factors rather than risk factors. The Center provides practical guidance for implementing the Strengthening Families approach through early care and education programs. Strengthening Families is flexible approach that can be shaped to meet the unique needs of individual programs in an affordable, doable way.

The Social-Emotional Screening Tool (SEST) is a great tool to use to know when to refer young children to a local mental health provider, Infant-Toddler Services (Tiny K – birth to 3 years) or local school district (3 to 5 years) for mental health services. Kansas now requires all children entering foster care to be screened using the Social-Emotional Screening Tool (SEST). The SEST is recommended for all at-risk children ages birth to five for screening referral, and is available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) versions.

The [Center on the Developing Child](#) and Jack Shonkoff, MD, Director, provide resources to help establish a solid scientific rationale for investments in early childhood. Dr. Shonkoff is an expert in the science of child development and has helped to guide collaboration among policy-makers and early childhood professionals.

## Upcoming Events, Conferences & Training Opportunities

**REMINDER!** The next KECCS stakeholder meeting will be on Thursday, August 9, 2007 from 9:00am until 3:00pm in Salina, KS. You won’t want to miss important policy updates, a progress report on the Plan, and workshops on each of the KECCS goal areas. To RSVP or for room information, contact Dyogga Adegbore ([DSXA@srs.ks.gov](mailto:DSXA@srs.ks.gov)).

The **6<sup>th</sup> Annual Parent Leadership Conference** will be held in Topeka on October 26 & 27, 2007. Parents of children birth to age 8 and family child care providers are eligible to attend this **free** conference sponsored by the Head Start-State Collaboration Office.

Do you have an event, conference or training coming up that would benefit other KECCS partners? Let us know, and we will promote it on the KECCS website and in the newsletter, the KECCS Update. Send information to [keccs@ku.edu](mailto:keccs@ku.edu), or contact Rebecca Gillam at (785) 864-7123.