



Pathways to Grade-Level Reading Initiative

Child Development at Kindergarten Entry Data Workgroup Description

Introduction to the North Carolina Early Childhood Foundation:

The vision of the North Carolina Early Childhood Foundation (NCECF) is that each North Carolina child has a strong foundation for lifelong success and reading proficiency, supported by the nation's best birth-to-eight system.

To drive policies and strategies that unleash the potential of each North Carolina child, the North Carolina Early Childhood Foundation brings together those working to promote children's health and development, to support families and communities and to advance high quality birth-to-eight learning. Our work includes:

- Promoting public understanding of and support for policies that promote children's birth-to-eight years for academic and lifelong success.
- Convening and spearheading collaboration to bridge North Carolina's birth-to-five and kindergarten-to-third grade systems.
- Advancing policies that create a stronger NC today and tomorrow by supporting each child's birth-to-eight development.

Pathways to Grade-Level Reading and Early Childhood Data Development

The Pathways to Grade-Level Reading Initiative's vision is bold – all North Carolina children, regardless of race, ethnicity or socioeconomic status, are reading on grade-level by the end of third grade, so that they have the greatest opportunity for life success.

Achieving this vision will take long-term commitment. To get there, we need state and local policies and practices aligned around and actively advancing this common vision, shared measures of success and coordinated strategies that support children's optimal development beginning at birth. To accomplish that, Pathways is creating partnerships among the state's public agency, policy, philanthropic, business and birth-to third grade leaders.

Phase I identified shared, whole-child Measures of Success that put children on a pathway to grade-level reading. Phase II considered the NC data behind the Measures of Success and recommended seven measures to collectively move to action on first. Phase III created the [Pathways Action Framework](#) to advance the measures of success for North Carolina.

Building on this work, NCECF and NCDHHS are co-convening the NC Early Childhood Data Advisory Council to create a strategic plan for improving North Carolina's early childhood data collection, analysis and use, including developing data sources for measures that NC is not currently collecting. To support North Carolina's early childhood data development, NCECF is convening two workgroups of data experts to identify or make recommendations to develop population-level data sources for two critical measures of success: children's social and emotional health and children's development at kindergarten entry.



The Pathways to Grade-Level Reading initiative has provided a foundation for the work of other statewide early childhood initiatives. In February 2019, the NC Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) and the NC Department of Health and Human Services released NC's Early Childhood Action Plan (ECAP), which highlights ten early childhood goals, metrics and targets for improvement by 2025. The ECAP metrics pull from the Pathways Measures of Success. The ECAP will now guide the development of the state's B-5 strategic plan as part of the Preschool Development Grant.

Child Development at Kindergarten Entry Data Workgroup Purpose and Scope of Work:

The data workgroup will review research and best practices to co-create consensus recommendations for what measure – or portfolio of proxy measures – would best track child development at kindergarten entry at the population level.

The workgroup process will include:

- Four half-day meetings between May and September 2019. Meetings will be held in the Triangle and will include a light lunch.
 - Meeting 1: May 6 from 12-4 at NC Partnership for Children, 1100 Wake Forest Rd.
 - Meeting 2: June 3 from 12-4 at NC Partnership for Children, 1100 Wake Forest Rd.
- Reviewing research on national best practices for measuring these outcomes on a population level.
- Hearing from state and national experts to inform the work as needed.
- Using a racial equity lens during the workgroup process through collaboration with CounterPart Consulting.
- Documenting the workgroup's process and final consensus recommendations by the end of September 2019.

Data Workgroup Member Characteristics:

The Pathways Initiative is designed to address racial inequities through disaggregation of data and intentionally choosing strategies to reduce disparities. NCECF and Pathways are committed to engaging the diversity of North Carolina's people, especially the voices of people of color. Overarching characteristics for data workgroup members include:

- A commitment to being data- and research-driven.
- A willingness to engage people with different policy perspectives with an open mind.
- An ability to look at early development through a multi-dimensional systems lens and an understanding of how kindergarten entry is impacted by a child's developmental trajectory, within the context of his or her family and community.
- An understanding of the potential policy and practice impacts of developing kindergarten entry measures.
- Experience with and/or knowledge of Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA) and/or other early childhood assessment measures.
- An understanding of the impact of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) on child development.
- A commitment to acknowledging and eliminating systemic inequities and racial, ethnic and socioeconomic disparities in early childhood experiences, opportunities, data and outcomes.