



SEPECC

Advancing quality early care
and education in Bucks, Chester,
Delaware, Montgomery and
Philadelphia Counties

Why do we need a regional child care coalition?

Almost 140,000 children from birth to age 5 in our region spend at least part of their day in care outside the home. Those who advocate for child care, pre-k, early intervention, home visiting and other child and family services have much in common. Working together gives us a voice and more impact than we could have separately.

What is the Southeastern Pennsylvania Early Childhood Coalition?

SEPECC serves as an umbrella of organizations supporting the mission of providing high quality early childhood services to all families. It represents child care centers, family child care programs, advocacy groups, training agencies, early care support agencies and funders who share the goal of coordinating and increasing public support for early care and education. Volunteers from the early childhood community, with organizational support from First Up, provide leadership for the coalition.

Why should you join the Coalition today?

In addition to networking with other child care advocates and staying informed, having a voice in child care policy will be critical in the coming years. With growing state and federal deficits – along with legislators' unwillingness to find additional revenues – we must work together to advocate for budgets that maintain early childhood education in this region, and prevent cuts to core programs that could affect a generation of young children.



Mission

To ensure that children and families in Southeast Pennsylvania have access to high quality, affordable and well-resourced early education programs.

Objectives

- Build unity to create one strong and amplified voice for promoting public policy and advocacy at the local, state and national levels.
- Develop a broad and inclusive local network of early care and education stakeholders.
- Provide a forum to share information, identify issues and form policy about city, regional, state and national issues affecting early care and education.
- Educate the public about the need for quality early care and education.
- Integrate the knowledge, interests and expertise of organizations that support and deliver early care and education services in the region.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is free and open to any individual or agency that provides child care or early education services, including family, group or center-based child care programs, Head Start, early intervention or school age programs, and to agencies or organizations that work with, support or advocate for early care and education.

in partnership with

 **First Up**
Champions for Early Education



What is SEPECC's reach?

While Philadelphia claims a significant share of the Coalition's attention, the goal is to fully represent the five-county region. Plans are underway to support collaborative efforts in the counties, to increase our social media presence, and to strengthen our regional voice.

Recent Activities

The Coalition has advocated to increase state funding for high quality early learning through Head Start and Pre-K Counts, and to improve the child care subsidy and Keystone STARS systems.

SEPECC was active in the effort to fund and roll-out a significant new Philadelphia pre-K effort, and continues to educate city players on the elements of a high quality system.

Members have organized activities to educate local, state and federal policymakers and administrators about early childhood care and learning issues.

The Coalition has developed advocacy training workshop materials and begun delivering training throughout the region.

Policy Agenda

Increase early childhood education quality and access through:

- Child care subsidies for low-income working families that incentivize quality
- State- and county-funded pre-k programs such as PreK Counts and PHLpreK
- Keystone STARS
- Head Start and Early Head Start.

Fax or mail form to:

SEPECC c/o First Up,
1608 Walnut St., Suite 300
Philadelphia, PA 19103
215-893-0130 x228 (phone)
215-893-0205 (fax)
SEPECC@firstup.org
www.firstup.org/sepecc

Membership meetings are
held bi-monthly on
Tuesday mornings at
Children's Village
125 N. 8th St.
Philadelphia, 19106

For a schedule of upcoming
meetings, check firstup.org/sepecc
or contact Pamela Haines at
pamela.haines@firstup.org

Support policies that strengthen and sustain the early learning sector, including improving working conditions that affect quality. Build community support for universal early learning.

Join SEPECC.

Name: _____

Organization/Program: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail: _____

Phone: _____

Interest (check all that apply):

- ☐ **City Policy:** Improving child care quality in Philadelphia by supporting/monitoring pre-K expansion efforts, eliminating structural barriers to licensed care, ensuring child safety, and coordinating stakeholders' efforts.
- ☐ **Provider Support:** Focusing on issues of immediate concern to providers, including improving the administration of the subsidy system and Keystone STARS.
- ☐ **State Budget/Policy:** Advocating for commitment at the state level to increase access to quality early childhood education.
- ☐ **Outreach:** Increase organizational stakeholder commitment in SEPECC to include others who work with young children, coordinates efforts in the counties, and expand our reach through social media.

Please complete this form and fax or mail it to SEPECC (see sidebar).

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