#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMINDERS:**

- \* ALL PARTICIPANTS ARE AUTOMATICALLY MUTED.
- \* PLEASE SHARE YOUR QUESTIONS FOR SPEAKERS IN THE CHAT BOX.
- \* THIS MEETING WILL BE RECORDED & AVAILABLE AT: https://www.firstup.org/sepecc/



## **SEPECC Meeting**

Tuesday, Nov. 25, 2025



Meeting will begin at 12:30pm

## Agenda:

12:30	Welcome
12:45	Federal, State & Local Budget/Policy Updates
1:00	Guest Legislator – Senator Joe Picozzi
1:15	ECE Advocacy in Action
1:30	Special Presentation – IECMH
1:50	Community Partner Resources
2:10	OCDEL, DHS & ELRC Announcements
2:25	Wrap Up

## Language Interpretation is available during this presentation. Interpretación de idiomas está disponible durante esta presentación.

- Select this icon at the bottom of your screen AND choose your preferred language.
- Seleccione este ícono 🚓 en la parte inferior de su pantalla y elija su idioma preferido.

#### Please Note - Tenga en cuenta

The Interpretation Feature can only be used on mobile phone using the zoom app.
 En los teléfonos móviles, solamente se puede acceder a la función de interpretación utilizando la aplicación de zoom.



- Select "mute original audio" if you do NOT want to hear other languages at a lower volume.
   Seleccione "mute original audio" (silenciar el audio original) si prefiere NO escuchar otros idiomas a un volumen más bajo.
- Please mute your sound to minimize interference.
   Por favor, apague su micrófono para disminuir las interferencias.
- ALL participants MUST select one language, English or Spanish, for the feature to work properly.
   TODOS los participantes DEBEN seleccionar un idioma, inglés o español, para que la función trabaje apropiadamente.

## SEPECC OBJECTIVES & PQAS



Sign in Sheet for SEPECC Meeting-PQAS Credit



#### **OBJECTIVES**

- NAEYC standard 6a- Identify as a committed professional in the early childhood education field.
- NAEYC standard 8b- Describe supports and resources to develop highly effective staff.

Please complete sign in

within 24 hours of the meeting end if you would like to receive PQAS credit.

Scan QR code or click on link:

https://forms.office.com/r/RfzSg97k7j

## **CONGRATULATIONS, SIM!!!**



MARY GRAHAM, CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

# BUDGET & POLICY UPDATES - FEDERAL -







Tell Your

US Representative and Senators –
Child Care is Critical Infrastructure That
Keeps America Running

Invest in Child Care 2025 - Child Care Aware® of America

# TYRONE SCOTT, FIRST UP

# BUDGET & POLICY UPDATES - STATE -



# \$25M for the new child care teacher recruitment & retention line item!



#### You Did It - We Did It!

We are excited to share - not only have PA lawmakers finalized the 2025-26 PA state budget - it focuses on children and early education workforce investments!

This victory is because of you. You never stopped.

Members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly and Shapiro
Administration received thousands and thousands of
messages ensuring the voices of families and early educators
were heard throughout the prolonged negotiations.

That made all the difference.
THANK YOU!!!

## PA BUDGET FOR EARLY LEARNING (2025-2026)

\$25M for the new child care teacher recruitment & retention line item! \$9.5 million
in additional
funding for the
state's
Pre-K Counts
program.

\$13.2

million increase for the Early
Intervention Part C (infant/toddler)

\$28.5
million increase for the Early
Intervention Part B
(3-5)

**LEVEL FUNDING**Home Visiting
& Head Start
Supplemental

Assistance

## VALERIE HAMILTON,

CHILDREN OF GOD EDUCATIONAL SERVICES BRISTOL, PA

HOSTED GOVERNOR'S PRESS CONFERENCE NOV. 19, 2025











thank you
artwork
to legislators
who voted to
support
child care
teachers!







Celebrate the Season of Gratitude with Children's Artwork & Advocacy Messages: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fQbtGoCerVzB0Ady2up3ZVAsj1QG\_8CT/view?usp=sharing



MARKET RATE SURVEY!





English info video

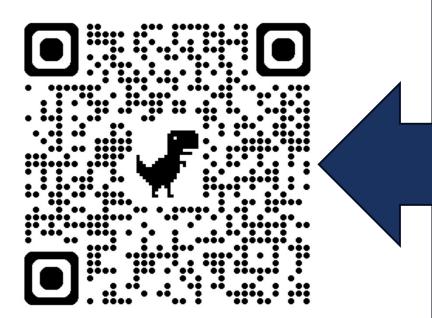
Spanish info video



Information about Market Rate Survey (videos)

English: <a href="https://youtu.be/SRDCtt1fPhe">https://youtu.be/SRDCtt1fPhe</a> Spanish: <a href="https://youtu.be/PYMehCrXAzU">https://youtu.be/PYMehCrXAzU</a>





Complete the survey by Dec. 8, 2025

- And -SPREAD THE WORD!

https://www.pakeys.org/market-rate-survey/

MARKET RATE SURVEY!

### LISA SMITH,

AMAZING KIDZ ACADEMY

# BUDGET & POLICY UPDATES - LOCAL-



#### Childcare providers could get tax break

Targeted relief: Councilmember Isaiah Thomas last spring pushed for the city to aggressively cut the business income and receipts tax, or BIRT.

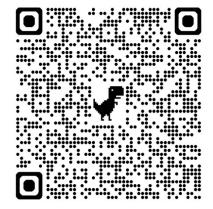
Johnson and Mayor Cherelle L. Parker ultimately went with a less aggressive schedule of tax cuts than Thomas had wanted. But the sophomore lawmaker is now trying another route to lighten the BIRT burden: cutting rates for a specific industry.

Thomas on Thursday introduced a bill that would halve BIRT's two tax rates for childcare providers, which are facing a nationwide crisis over costs, staffing, and financial viability. The gross receipts portion of BIRT would be reduced from 0.1415% to 0.7075% for daycare owners, and the net income rate would go from 5.81% to 2.805%.



Dec. 11 Voting session at City Hall

Providers & families, let's show up and pack the room!



Sign up form: Will You Join Us On 12/11/2025 To Pack The City Hall for the BIRT TAX

Reduction Votina! – Fill out form

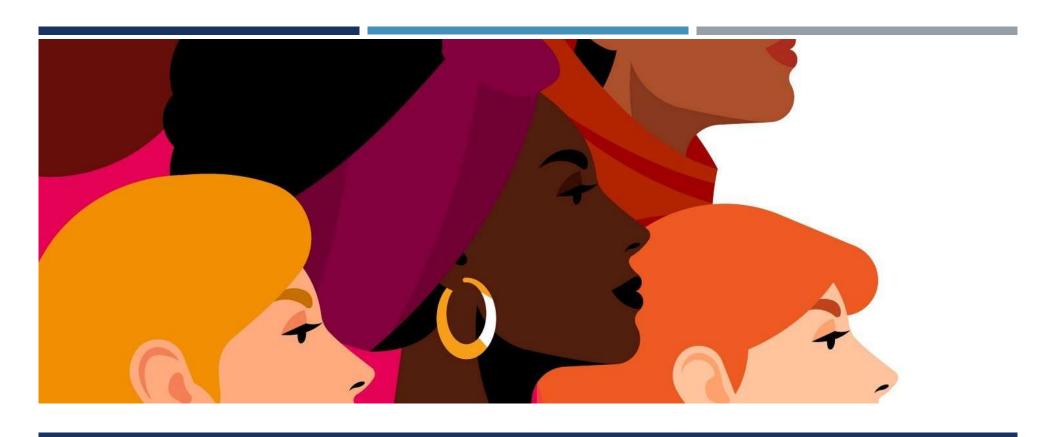


## Guest Legislator:

## Sen. Joe Picozzi

Senate District – 5
Serving part of **Philadelphia** county
Urban Affairs & Housing, Chair
Law & Justice, Vice Chair

Mercedes Fleet-Mount, Bright Little Scholars
Rosanna Matos, First Up: Champions for Early Education



# ADVOCACY IN ACTION!



#### **KEVIN BURGESS**

CHILDREN FIRST ACTION FUND & CHILD CARE VOTER

KEVINB@CHILDRENFIRSTPA.ORG (445) 888-2542

## 2025 GENERAL ELECTION

#### Table of Contents

- Tuesday, November 5th General Election
- What Was on the Ballot
- Election Results
- Key Takeaways
- Looking Ahead to 2026



## WHAT WAS ON THE BALLOT?

#### Judicial Races

- Supreme Court
  - 3 justices were up for retention
- Superior Court
  - 1 open seat, 1 current judge up for retention
- Commonwealth Court
  - 1 open seat, 1 current judge up for retention
- Court of Common Pleas & Municipal Courts
  - Numerous open and retention races

#### School Board races

#### Municipal Races

- Varied by county
  - District Attorney
  - County Controller
  - Sheriff
  - Register of Wills

## **ELECTION RESULTS**

#### Judicial Results

- Supreme Court
  - 3 justices retained
- Superior Court
  - Incumbent Judge Alice Dubow retained, Democrat Brandon Neuman elected
- Commonwealth
  - Incumbent Judge Matt Wojick retained, Democrat Stella Tsai elected
- Common Pleas & Municipal Courts
  - Varied Results

#### School Board

 Many districts rejected extremist candidates

#### Municipal Races

 Varied results, but Democrats won most races

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

#### High Voter Turnout

- Philadelphia 34%
  - 12 points higher than 2022
- Montgomery County 52%
  - highest turnout in any large county in odd-year election ever
- o Chester 47.73%
- o Bucks 49.6%
- o Delaware 45.59%
- Voters reject extremist, dark-money backed campaigns

## LOOKING AHEAD TO 2026

## Child Care is on the ballot!

- Important races:
  - State House
  - State Senate
  - Governor
  - U.S. House
- Child Care Voter will be active in these races!

- Get Prepared
  - Register to Vote
  - Request Mail-In Ballot
- Join the Child Care Voter movement!
  - Facebook page
  - Instagram
  - □ Sign Up



# DR. STEPHANIE BLAKE ECE POLICY OPERATIONS MANAGER

STEPHANIEB@CHILDRENFIRSTPA.ORG 215.563.5848 EX 321



- Thousands of young children are suspended or expelled each year in PA early learning settings.
- Data shows Black children are 3x more likely to be expelled than peers.
- Many programs report lacking mental health consultation and consistent guidance.



- To understand how suspension and expulsion occur across early childhood settings.
- To identify what supports educators and families need to prevent them.
- To develop policy recommendations that promote equity, belonging, and thriving.

## SHORT-TERM POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS (1–3 YEARS)

- Expand Rapid Response ECE Family Navigator statewide.
- Provide add-on payments for children with IEPs/IFSPs.
- Incentivize PD focused on traumainformed care and family engagement.
- Require parent intake meetings to review center policies and rights.

- Develop and distribute 'Know Your Rights' resources for parents.
- Increase funds for teacher recruitment and retention.
- Create state guidance on preventing suspensions in ECE.
- Fund pilot programs demonstrating best practices in inclusion.

## LONG-TERM POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS (3–5 YEARS):

- Mandate statewide data tracking of suspensions and expulsions across CCW, HS, and PKC.
- Require trauma-informed and equity-focused training for all ECE staff.
- Integrate these competencies into higher education and CDA pathways.

- Establish a centralized entity to coordinate El and mental health services.
- Ensure workforce investments for pay parity with K–12.
- Build statewide consistency through cross-agency collaboration.

## LESLIE SPINA,

KINDER ACADEMY & VOICE OF ECE

DATA GATHERING:
ACCESS TO EARLY
INTERVENTION
SERVICES FOR
CHILDREN
AGES 3-5





Philadelphia Providers, please complete: <u>Data Gathering-Access to El Services for Children Ages 3-5 – Fill out form</u>





### **JEANNE FRANTZ**

EMAIL: <u>JEAFRA@PAKEYS.ORG</u>

PHONE: 610-717-6082

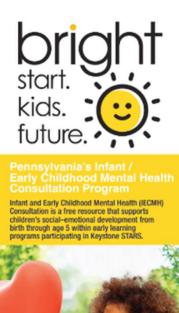


### INFANT/EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTATION (IECMHC)

IECMHC is a program of the Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL), administered by the Pennsylvania Key.

IECMHC is a free resource that supports children's social-emotional development from ages 0-5 within early learning programs participating in **Keystone STARS.** 





A free service offered through the Office of Child Development and Early Learning

#### WHAT IS INFANT AND EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH?



(Adapted from ZERO TO THREE: National Center for Infants, Toddlers & Families)

How Infant/
Early
Childhood
Mental
Health
Consultation
Works

Mental health consultation is not about fixing kids. Nor is it therapy.

Mental Health Consultants partner with adults to foster healthy growth and development for infants and young children.

IECMHC provides support for parents and childcare professionals who work with children experiencing persistent or puzzling challenges.



# IECMH Consultants help caregivers of infants and young children to:

Recognize every child's strengths and potential

Understand what children's challenging behaviors are trying to communicate

Respond to problem behaviors in an encouraging and positive way

Create supportive environments for children

Build relationships with families

### When should you request IECMH Consultation services?

Are you concerned about the social emotional development and/or behavior of a young child who is enrolled in an early learning program?





Providers can request IECMH services by completing the **Request for Service Form** 

Completed forms can be submitted via email <a href="mailto:PAIECMH@pakeys.org">PAIECMH@pakeys.org</a> or

faxed to 717-213-3749



## **IECMHC SERVICES INCLUDE:**

**Meet individually** with Director, Teachers, and Parents/Guardians

**Observation** of a child in the early education classroom setting

Partner with childcare professionals to identify a child's areas of strength and need

Develop a childspecific action plan related to individual child's social and emotional development Assist childcare professionals and administrators in communicating with families and service providers

Assist with resources
and referrals for a child
and their family for
specialized services
available in their
community

#### Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation





IECMH Consultants can diagnose mental health disorders.

IECMH Consultants will not provide diagnosis for any child. However, screeners are utilized to identify areas of concern to determine whether a referral will be made for more intensive services.

IECMH Consultants work one on one with students.

IECMH Consultants work with the important adults in the child's life.

IECMH Consultants can access
IBHS/Early Intervention services faster.

Participation in IECMH consultation does not fast track children to other community services.

IECMH Consultants can provide counseling or therapy services.

An IECMH Consultant will support the family with pursuing additional community supports.

# Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation





IECMH Consultants monitor the implementation of IEP's, IFSP's, Behavioral Plans or other written supports from outside agencies.

IECMH Consultants will monitor IECMH
Action Plans.

IECMH Consultants provide Keystone STARS Quality Coaching.

If it is determined a provider requires more additional program consultation, support with grant requests, facilitation with Keystone STARS regulations/requirements and professional development, contact will be made with a Quality Coach.

IECMH Action Plans are binding documents.

A child's enrollment is not bound to a signed action plan.

# WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PREPARE FOR IECMH CONSULTATION?

# IECMH is most effective when Directors and Teachers are partners with the Consultant

- Emotional Safety
- Open to Learning
- Interested in Working Collaboratively

# How can Directors set the stage for IECMH?

- Prepare teachers
- Make time for Consultation meetings
- Talk about your program's commitment to inclusion and staff wellness

# HOW TO EXPLAIN IECMHC SERVICES TO PARENTS: WHAT TO SAY

"Young children communicate through their behavior, so IECMH can help us figure out what your child is trying to tell us with his behavior."



"Consultation can help us understand your child better."



"IECMH can help your child's teacher help your child."



"IECMH can help us figure out what we can do to help your child have a better experience at school."



# HOW TO EXPLAIN IECMHC SERVICES TO PARENTS: WHAT TO SAY

"IECMH consultants don't label or diagnose children."

"There is no charge for IECMH services."

"You will be included with every step of IECMH. The Consultant will not make decisions without including you as parents."

"Other parents and teachers who used ECMH services say that they're glad they tried ECMH because it really helped their children."





# **Benefits of IECMH Consultation**

Lower stress for teachers and caregivers

Confidence boost for teachers and caregivers

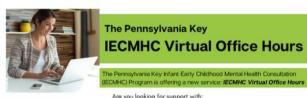
Increase caregivers' reflective practice skills

Fewer incidents of challenging behaviors

Reduce expulsion and suspension practices

Linking families with community services

# VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS



Are you looking for support with:

Helping a child who is struggling with behavior, attachment, peer relationships or emotion regulation? Helping teachers and families with self-care, stress, and coping, but not sure what to do next?

> IECMHC Virtual Office Hours is now accepting appointments for office hours throughout Pennsylvania!

ECMH Consultants are available by appointment to provide IECMHC Virtual Office Hours consultation via telephone or video conference. IECMHC Virtual Office Hours is a short-term, collaborative, problem-solving conversation to help you find next steps for:

Child Social-Emotional Concerns | Child Behavioral or Developmental Concerns Emotional Well-being of Teachers and Caregivers | Partnering with Families

#### Who can request IECMHC Virtual Office Hours?

prvices are available at no cost to families, child care professionals and specialists supporting Keystone STARS

- Teachers, directors, and staff in center, family, and group-based child care programs
  Families with children attending children

- How can IECMH Virtual Office Hours help your program?

espond to children's social-emotional needs. IECMHC can help reduce caregiver stress, as well as increase

- caregivers' reflective practice skills.
- Figure out what's really going on when a child exhibits challenging behaviors
   Reflect and respond to problem behaviors with the power and impact of nurturing relationships
   Build partnerships with families
- . Consider your next steps and where to go from here

How can you request an IECMHC Virtual Office Hours appointment?

Appointments are held on the first and third Fridays of the month, or other days/times by request, To schedule an appointment, register here.



ree resource that supports children's social-emotional development from birth ough age five within early learning programs participating in Keystone STARS.

Learn more about Pernadepola's International Carly Childrood Mental Health



IECMH Consultants are available by appointment via telephone or video conference.

# Find next steps for:

- Child Social-Emotional Concerns
- Child Behavioral or Developmental Concerns
- Emotional Well-being of Teachers and Caregivers
- Partnering with Families

Appointments held twice per month in English or Spanish

# VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS FOR FAMILIES

#### The Pennsylvania Key **IECMHC Virtual Office Hours**

Are you looking for support with: Helping your child who is struggling with behavior, friendships, or managing their feelings? Helping your child with challenging behavior in child care or at home, but not sure what to do next?

The Pennsylvania Key Infant-Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (IECMHC) Program is offering a new service for families: IECMHC Virtual Office Hours

> IECMHC Virtual Office Hours is now available to families across Pennsylvania IECMH Consultants are available by appointment via telephone or video conference. We can offer a listening ear and professional guidance to help you find next steps for:

Child Social-Emotional Concerns | Child Behavioral or Developmental Concerns Emotional Well-Being of Caregivers | Parent-Child Care Partnerships

#### Who can request IECMHC Virtual Office Hours?

Services are available at no cost to parents, families, child care professionals, and specialists who work with caregivers of children from birth-5 (ex: Early Intervention, Mental or Behavioral Health, Home Visitors).

#### How can IECMHC Virtual Office Hours help you and your family?

IECMH Consultation can help caregivers figure out what's really going on when a child has challenging behavior or social-emotional difficulties. Our consultants will help you problem-solve and identify how to respond to challenging behavior in a positive, nurturing way.

- · Figure out what your child is trying to communicate through their behavior
- Build your confidence and reduce your stress level
- · Encourage partnerships with other adults in your child's life
- Discover community resources
- Consider your next steps and where to go from here

How can you request an IECMHC Virtual Office Hours appointment?

Appointments are held on the first and third Fridays of the month, or other days/times by request. To schedule an appointment, register here.

IECMH Virtual Office Hours is not a crisis hotline. If your question or situation is urgent and

- PA Crisis Text Line: Free, 24/7 support for those in crisis. Text "PA" to 741741 to text with a
- SAMHSA National Helpline: Confidential, free 24/7 helpline. Call 1-800-662-HELP (4557)
- PA Support & Referral Helpline: Call 1-855-284-2494 or click Pennsylvania County Crisis



IECMH Consultants are available by appointment via telephone or video conference.

## Find next steps for:

- Child Social-Fmotional Concerns
- Child Behavioral or Developmental Concerns
- Emotional Well-being of Teachers and Caregivers
- Partnering with Families

Appointments held twice per month in English and Spanish

# School-Age Child Care Mental Health Consultation





The Pennsylvania Key Infant-Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (IECMHC) Program now offers a new service.

# School Age Child Care (SACC) Mental Health Consultation

#### Are you looking for support with:

- Helping children who are struggling with behavior, attachment, peer relationships or emotion regulation?
- · Helping teachers and families with self-care, stress, and coping, but not sure what to do next?

#### SACC Mental Health Consultation is now accepting appointments for consultation throughout Pennsylvania!

A SACC Mental Health Consultant is available by appointment to provide assistance via telephone or video conference. SACC Mental Health Consultation is a problem-solving and collaborative approach to help develop goals and strategies for:

- Child Social-Emotional Concerns
- Child Behavioral or Developmental Concerns
- Emotional Well-being of Teachers and Caregivers
- Partnering with Families

#### How can SACC Mental Health Consultation help your program?

SACC Mental Health Consultation helps adults strengthen their relationships with school age children and build the capacity to respond to children's social-emotional needs. Consultation can help reduce caregiver stress, as well as increase caregivers' reflective practice skills to:

- Figure out what's really going on when children exhibit challenging behaviors
- Reflect and respond to problem behaviors with the power and impact of nurturing relationships
- Build partnerships with families
- Share community resources
- · Consider your next steps and where to go from there

#### Who can request SACC Mental Health Consultation?

Services are available to child care professionals participating in Keystone STARS school age child care programs (like teachers, directors, and staff in center, group-based child care programs).

#### How can you request a SACC Mental Health Consultant appointment?

Appointments are held on Tuesdays, with the option to schedule follow up appointments based on individual needs.

To schedule an appointment with Lauren Walter, SACC Mental Health Consultant, register here, or scan the QR Code.









# IECMHC RESOURCES

# **IECMHC** Website

https://www.pakeys.org/iec
mh/

# **Request for Services Form**

https://www.pakeys.org/wpcontent/uploads/2023/03/IECMHC-Request-for-Services-Full-Applicationfillable-rev-10.11.21.pdf



# **IECMHC NEWSLETTER**



A Focus on Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health

October 2021

This newsletter focuses on sharing information on infant/early childhood mental health and the importance of relationship-based approaches and supports that help infants and young children feel safe, supported, and valued by the adults around them. The newsletter, and the Infant Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (IECMHC) program, is made possible by a partnership between the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) and the Pennsylvania Key.

#### Welcome

Welcome to the October issue of the IECMH newsletter! We are continuing to focus on the Pyramid Model and explore the universal tier, nurturing and responsive relationships.

Decades of research has now shown that having a secure attachment with a primary caregiver leaves a child healthier and happier in virtually every way we measure such things—in competence and self-confidence, empathy and compassion, resilience and endurance...in the ability to regulate emotions, tap intellectual capacity, and preserve physical health... in pursuing our life's work and having a fulfilling personal life. Perhaps most important, a secure attachment

Sign up for **Bright Start**, **Bright Kids**, **Bright Future** here:

<u>www.pakeys.org/getting-started/about-us/newsletter-signup/</u>







#### Brochure for families and teachers

https://www.pakeys.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/IECMHbrochure Feb2021.pdf



# - Free

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT Pyramid Model eModules

BIRTH TO 5 COURSE (ENGLISH) DEL NACIMIENTO A LOS 5 AÑOS (ESPAÑOL)

CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE PRACTICES TO REDUCE IMPLICIT BIAS, DISPROPORTIONALITY, SUSPENSION & EXPULSION

WELLNESS: TAKING CARE OF YOURSELF TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE & THE PYRAMID MODEL

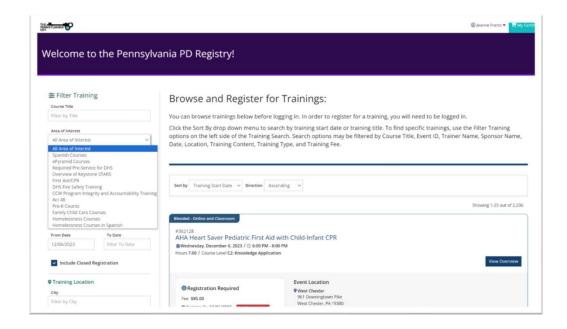


#### PREVENT-TEACH-REINFORCE FOR FAMILIES

Search for each course on the PD Registry. For the Areas of Interest drop down box, use *ePyramid* as a search option to locate these free online courses.



# PYRAMID MODEL E-MODULE TRAININGS



For additional information about Pennsylvania's Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation services, visit the Pennsylvania Key website

www.pakeys.org/iecmh

Email: PAIECMH@pakeys.org

# JEANNE FRANTZ, MA

INFANT-EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL
HEALTH CONSULTATION PROGRAM
SOUTHEAST REGION SUPERVISOR
THE PENNSYLVANIA KEY
jeafra@pakeys.org 610.717.6082



# COMMUNITY PARTNER RESOURCES







Hãrlèm Empöwêrmént Prôjěct





# On-site Flu & Vaccination Clinics for Early Childhood Centers

presented by: Phanerrica Muhammad, BSN, RN, PCCN Co-Founder, Premier Concierge Nursing Services



# **About Premier Concierge Nursing Services**

- Philadelphia-based, women-owned, and minority-certified business
- Provide private nursing care, corporate wellness programs, and on-site health clinics
- Trusted vendor for AstraZeneca's employee wellness
- Partnering with local organizations to improve preventive care access



# **Identified Need**

- Many children in Philadelphia miss annual flu vaccines
- Working parents struggle with limited time and transportation
- Missed vaccines = increased risk for school absences and preventable illness amongst children and staff
- On-site clinics help close these gaps



# **Proposed Program**

- On-Site Clinic Services include:
  - FluMist and injectable flu vaccines
  - Routine immunizations as needed
  - Licensed nursing staff on-site
  - Parent consent coordination & health education
  - Flexible scheduling during school hours



# **Program Cost**

- Billing & Coverage:
  - Medicaid & Private Insurance: (accepted for eligible children)
  - Direct Pay Rate: per vaccine (depending on formulation)
  - Group Rate: Custom pricing available for centers (20+ children)



# **Next Steps & Contact**

 Seeking 2-5 childcare centers to collaborate & participate in 2026 Pilot Program

> Contact info@premierconciergenurses.com www.premierconciergenurses.com

Hãrlèm Empöwêrmént Prôjěct

# Alli Smale

Community Outreach and Legal Education Coordinator

610-633-0104

allisons@hep.nyc

#### LET US BE THE KEYSTONE TO YOUR SUCCESS!

Questions? info@hep.nyc / 646-450-9218

FREE, online GED prep classes

- Guided Job Search
- Goal Setting
- Resume Writing
- Individualized Career Plans
- Interview Preparation
- Internships and Apprenticeships
- Referral to Digital Industries, Food Service Industries, Security Guard, and more...
- One-on-One Coaching
- Financial Literacy
- Assistance finding other services to meet your needs

Härlèm **Empöwêrmént** Prôject www.hep.nyc

All of our services are free for adults in Pennsylvania!

#### LET US BE THE KEYSTONE TO YOUR SUCCESS!

We can help you reach your career and educational goals. The Harlem Empowerment Project can assist you with the following services:

- · Guided Job Search
- · Goal Setting
- · Resume Writing
- Interview Preparation
- · Internships and Apprenticeships
- · Referral to Digital Industries, · Individualized Career Plans Food Service Industries. Security Guard, and more...
- · One-on-One Coaching
  - · Financial Literacy
  - · Assistance finding other services to meet your needs

#### Prepare for your GED high school diploma online! Free online classes for all adults!

#### Registration for the spring 2026 semester will open in January

Visit www.hep.nyc/ged or send your name and email address to GED@hep.nyc to be added to our mailing list. You will receive information about registering for the spring 2026 semester as soon as it becomes available. We have morning, evening, and Spanish GED classes

- . Attend class and complete assignments anywhere you have access to the internet
- · Cost-effective for parents who have small children at home · Working online in small groups allows you to ask questions while
- getting the one-on-one support you need

#### Questions? info@hep.nyc / 646-450-921







# **KERRI LEE**

KELEE@PHMC.ORG

# PHLPREK OVERVIEW

#### Mission

 Increase access to quality early learning by offering free Pre-Kindergarten programs to children regardless of their family's income



# **History**

- Launched in January 2017, PHLpreK is funded by the Philadelphia Beverage Tax
- Started with free pre-K to 2,000 students at 89 locations across the city. Now, in 2025-26, there are 5,250 seats at over 230 locations
- 5.5 hours of daily education for 180 days over 10 months
- 16,000+ students and families have participated in PHLpreK since inception

# THE PHLPREK APPLICATION IS OPEN!

- The following is available: Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for New Provider Locations
  - RFQ is designed to develop a pool of Providers to be considered for slot awards in the 2026-2027 program year to support program expansion or redistribution for existing contracts.
- Visit the <u>PHLpreK website</u> to review application materials, learn how to apply online, view the Application Info Session recording, and more!
- Application submission deadline: December 2, 2025, at noon (12pm EST)
  - Must apply through the web platform and providers cannot submit the deadline.
  - The application is available in English, Spanish, and Chinese.





# Jackie Groetsch

**Public Policy Manager** 

jackie.groetsch@firstup.org



#### Nominate An Outstanding Educator For The Terri Lynne Lokoff Teacher Awards

Deadline to nominate is December 5, 2025

<u>Spanish Version- Nomination Form</u> English Version - Nomination Form

Have questions? Reach out to teacheraward@firstup.org







#### Nominate an Outstanding Early Childhood Educator

2026 Terri Lynne Lokoff Teacher Awards

# What is the Terri Lynne Lokoff Teacher Award?

This award honors exceptional early childhood educators who demonstrate excellence, innovation, and a deep commitment to the children and families they serve.

#### Deadline:

Nominations close or

**December 5th** – do not miss your chance to shine a light on a remarkable educator!

#### Winners Receive:

- \$2000
- Complimentary registration to the 2026 First Up Annual Conference
- Special Recognition at an Award Ceremony

#### Do You Know an Infant/Toddler/or Preschool Teacher

- in a childcare program in Bucks, Montgomery, Chester, Delaware or Philadelphia counties?
- who goes above and beyond to nurture, inspire, and support young children?

Now's your chance to celebrate their dedication and impact!

Nominate An Educator Today!

https://form.jotform.com/252966356280061

#### Contact Us To Learn More

If you have questions, please reach out to

teacheraward@firstup.org



First Up is a 501c3 nonprofit organization.



# 2026 First Up Conference

Join Us March 6-7, 2026

Thriving Together: Collaborating & Connecting in Community

Conference Registration Is OPEN!
Learn more and register at:
First Up Annual Conference - First Up



## The Hilton Philadelphia City Avenue

(4200 City Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19131)

#### The First Up Conference Provides:

- Engaging Workshops
- Informative and Exciting Keynote Speakers
- Networking Opportunities
- Raffle giveaways, and so much MORE!

Take Advantage of our Early Bird Pricing! Hurry Before Our Deal Ends!



MAGGIE JOHNSON - ELRC17

MARGARET.JOHNSON@MONTGOMERYCOUNTYPA.
GOV

ASIA M. SHEPPARD - DHS ASSHEPPARD@PA.GOV

JAMILA DASHIELL - DHS JDASHIELL@PA.GOV

NETTA RADZINSKI – OCDEL C-JRADZINS@PA.GOV

# MARGARET JOHNSON

KEYSTONE STARS COORDINATOR, ELRC 17

MARGARET.JOHNSON@M ONTGOMERYCOUNTYPA. GOV



## ELRC 15 UPDATES - CHESTER

**LOCATION**: 2098 WEST CHESTER PIKE SUITE 102 TOLL FREE: 888-535-2217 MAIN: 610-480-3191

- The ELRC 15 Quality Team holds monthly office hours from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Office hours are offered both virtually and in person. Contact your Quality Coach for more information or to schedule a program visit.
- Stay up to date with STARS and Community Events on the ELRC 15 Quality Padlet. The QR Code to access the Padlet is listed below.



- ELRC 15 will participate as a table vendor at the Pettaway Pursuit Foundation's Pampering Parents Pop Up Giveaway on Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, from 10 am to 12 pm at Victory Christian Center, 5220 Whitby Ave. in Philadelphia.
- There is still time to complete the ELRC 15 Health and Safety TA Survey Link, which can be requested from your Quality Coach <a href="https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe2TqDaFbSkSA9L-zmLzt1kJpCzqcmLz-vKu7Xmzv1TSBQvtA/viewform?usp=header">https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe2TqDaFbSkSA9L-zmLzt1kJpCzqcmLz-vKu7Xmzv1TSBQvtA/viewform?usp=header</a>

# ELRC 17 UPDATES - MONTGOMERY

- ELRC 17 is hosting Parent Café Events at Child Care Providers in Montgomery County. This is a great Family Engagement Opportunity. Reach out to your Quality Coach to schedule an event at your center.
- ELRC 17 next Provider Meeting will be on Wednesday, December 3rd from 10am-12pm. This meeting is held in a hybrid format. This meeting is for Child Care Providers in Montgomery County only.
- ELRC 17 next Local Leadership Council Meeting will be on Wednesday, January 28th from 1pm-3pm. This meeting is held in a hybrid format. This meeting is for Child Care Providers in Montgomery County only.
- ELRC 17 Monthly Newsletter is sent via our Quality Coaches each month. Our newsletter is posted on our website: <a href="https://www.montcopa.org/elrc">www.montcopa.org/elrc</a>

# ELRC 18 PHILADELPHIA

Providers and community partners are invited to join ELRC 18 at an upcoming quarterly Virtual Provider Network Meeting. These meetings provide an opportunity for early care and education professionals in Philadelphia to access information related to quality improvement, to discuss a variety of topics related to Keystone STARS and Child Care Works, and to connect with ELRC 18 staff and community partners.

- December 11<sup>th</sup> 1:30-3:00PM: <a href="https://phmc-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\_UUyvr8Z4TH2PhJybttXkwA">https://phmc-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\_UUyvr8Z4TH2PhJybttXkwA</a>
- December 11<sup>th</sup> 6:30-8:00PM: <a href="https://phmc-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\_VuRgdisIRRC6ZycPucoCPw">https://phmc-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\_VuRgdisIRRC6ZycPucoCPw</a>
- December 15<sup>th</sup> 10:00-11:30AM: <a href="https://phmc-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\_jF-HCoO2SLWIWpc61MIMeA">https://phmc-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\_jF-HCoO2SLWIWpc61MIMeA</a>

ASIA M. SHEPPARD

ASSHEPPARD@PA.GOV

JAMILA DASHIELL

JDASHIELL@PA.GOV



- New Confluence Podcast Release Now Available:
  - Episode 8: Announcement C-25-03: Policy for Transferring Care Between Child Care Facility and School
    - Listen as hosts Ruby Martin, Director of Bureau of Certification Services, and Chris Loos, Bureau of Certification Services Division Chief, discuss the most recent announcement regarding transferring care between Child Care facilities and schools
- All episodes can be found here <u>The Confluence Podcast The Pennsylvania Key</u>
  - Episode #1 Introduction & What is Federal Monitoring (35:55)
  - Episode #2 Exploring the Revised Health and Safety Trainings (50:13)
  - Episode #3 Clarifying the Child Protective Service Law (CPSL) Requirements for Child Care (21:37)
  - Episode #4 Building Comprehensive Networks for Home-Based Providers (34:10)
  - Episode #5 Understanding The Complex Differences Between Certification and Quality
     Initiatives (19:51)
  - Episode #6 Preventing Child Behaviors that Challenge Us and Resources Available to Providers (37:41)
  - Episode #7 The Market Rate Survey, Understanding the How, Why, What, and When (20:21)

JANETTA
(NETTA) RADZINSKI
C-JRADZINS@PA.GOV



# OCDEL UPDATES

Career Pathway Redesign

MARKET RATE SURVEY

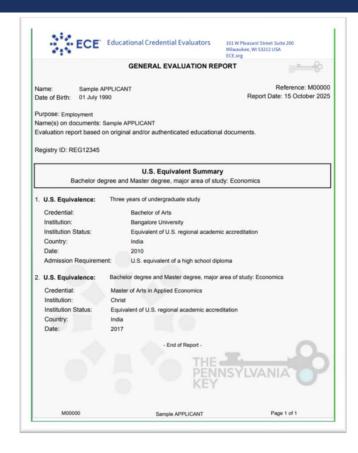
# INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION EVALUATION INITIATIVE

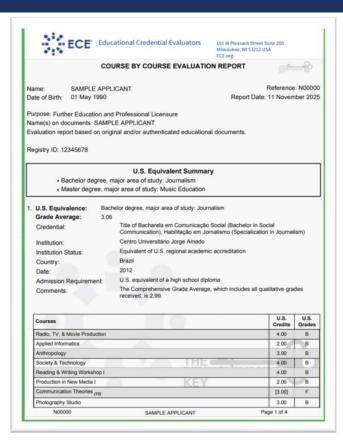
- Beginning December 1st No Cost Foreign Degree Evaluation!
- Visit <a href="https://www.pakeys.org/international-education-evaluation/">https://www.pakeys.org/international-education-evaluation/</a> to learn more about the process
- Foreign Degree Evaluation (FDE) Voucher Applications will be accepted through December 31st; after which applicants may seek an evaluation through the International Education Evaluation Initiative or another approved NACES or AICE organization.
  - Note: if seeking evaluation after December 31st through a different approved organization, reimbursement applications will not be accepted

# INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION EVALUATION INITIATIVE

- Support staff will have access to view evaluated reports on the PA PD Registry.
  - Once evaluated reports are received by our Career Pathway Verifiers from the vendor, the reports will be uploaded to the PD Registry on behalf of the applicant, allowing simple access to important documentation
- More information regarding translated FAQs, videos, social media communications will be shared soon.
- Send all programmatic questions to <u>natflo@pakeys.org</u> or registry@pakeys.org

# INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION EVALUATION INITIATIVE





# CAREER PATHWAY REDESIGN

- The Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) has been chosen as one of three states to participate in the National ECE Workforce Center's Action Research Partnership (ARP)!
- 12-18 month process, please reach out to Netta if you wish to participate in focus groups

## The Vision Ahead

- The goal is to create a more comprehensive, flexible, and supportive ECE Career Pathway system that recognizes the true value and complexity of the ECE profession.
- We're excited to explore how the pathway can honor experience, reduce barriers to advancement, and recognize the full scope of skills and roles needed to serve Pennsylvania's young children.

More information can be found here: Action Research Partnership - The Pennsylvania Key

# 2025 MARKET RATE SURVEY

- Licensed child care providers: Help shape the future of child care funding and policy decisions in Pennsylvania.
- Information about your private pay tuition rates is vital. OCDEL strongly encourages you to participate in the 2025 Child Care Market Rate Survey, open from September 8 to December 8, 2025.
- By sharing your tuition information, you're contributing to more accurate data that directly influences child care subsidy policies and funding decisions.

Pennsylvania's 2025 Child
 Care Market Rate Survey The Pennsylvania Key





# **OPEN DISCUSSION**

Reach out to Netta with any questions or concerns c-jradzins@pa.gov



## 2025-2026 SEPECC COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS

#### **Steering Committee**

Zakiyyah Boone (Co-Chair)
Melanie Brennan (Co-Chair)
Ebony Baggett
Jackie Groetsch
Kia Douglass
Latonta Godboldt
Laverne Cheeseboro
Mary Graham
Melody Connell
Minnette Taylor
Sharon McClafferty
Shineal Hunter
Tracey Triolo

#### **Advocacy Workgroup**

Eleanor Levie
Laverne Cheeseboro
Lisa Iliopoulos
Mercedes Fleet Mount
Nicole Fetherman
Shineal Hunter
Shirlee Howe
Sim Loh

#### **Advisory Council**

Elizabeth Ozer Khadijah Sabir Maddy Malis MaryKay Mahar Norma Finkelstein Pamela Haines

#### Social Media Workgroup

Eleanor Levie Shar'ron Brown Carroll Sim Loh 30-Second Exit Survey:

https://forms.gle/vz5BfnpSkWquZsjWA



PQAS Hours Request Form:

https://forms.office.com/r/RfzSg97k7j

- Upcoming Meetings: 12:30-2:30pm
  - o December 16 (3<sup>rd</sup> Tue.)
  - o January 27
  - o February 24
- Meeting Slides, Recording & Registration Links on First Up/ SEPECC Webpage: <a href="https://www.firstup.org/sepecc/">https://www.firstup.org/sepecc/</a>

