



**Monday, September 16, 2019**

**2019 Thriving Children, Families,  
and Communities Conference**

#thrivingchildren2019



Dear Colleagues and Friends:

We are pleased to join together to host the 2019 Thriving Children, Families, and Communities Conference today in Kearney with attendees from nearly 90 communities across Nebraska. We have added new sponsors and a new group of conference partners to this important gathering.

Our common ground is the understanding that when children and families thrive, so do the communities in which they live. Early childhood programs play a key role in a community's vitality and economic development—both because working families seek reliable, quality child care in choosing where to live and because research shows that children who have benefited from high-quality early childhood programs become better students, better employees, and more productive citizens.

The goal of the conference is to inform, engage, and motivate Nebraska communities to support and implement high-quality early childhood programs and services in their communities from birth through Grade 3. Awareness of this goal directly connects our children's development and learning to Nebraska's future success.

Today we will explore the importance of quality in early care and education settings from a variety of perspectives and learn from those of you who are engaged in this critical work in communities across the state. We will also examine the vital role early childhood programs and services play in communities' economic development and share strategies and tools to support your local efforts. In addition to the keynote address from Dr. Helen Raikes and two panels, we offer an increased number of workshops to address issues that will help you strengthen quality in early childhood programs and services in your community.

We hope today's conference expands your network of contacts and resources to offer you new perspectives and support.

Thank you for being here. We look forward to a great day together!

Sincerely,

**Matthew Blomstedt**

Nebraska Department of Education

**Jeff Yost**

Nebraska Community Foundation

**Dannette Smith**

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

**Chuck Hibberd**

Nebraska Extension

**Becky Veak**

First Five Nebraska

**Jessie Rasmussen**

Buffett Early Childhood Fund

**Mary Jo Pankoke**

Nebraska Children and Families Foundation

**Samuel Meisels**

Buffett Early Childhood Institute  
University of Nebraska

# Agenda

8:00 a.m. Check-in and Breakfast

8:30 a.m. Opening Remarks

**Samuel Meisels**, Buffett Early Childhood Institute | [smeisels@nebraska.edu](mailto:smeisels@nebraska.edu)

**Chancellor Douglas Kristensen**, University of Nebraska at Kearney | [kristensend@unk.edu](mailto:kristensend@unk.edu)

**Sen. Tom Briese**, Nebraska Legislature | [tbriese@leg.ne.gov](mailto:tbriese@leg.ne.gov)

9:05 a.m. Keynote Address and Community Activity

## Introduction

**Kate Gallagher**, Buffett Early Childhood Institute | [kgallagher@nebraska.edu](mailto:kgallagher@nebraska.edu)

## Children and Communities: What Thriving Looks Like and What It Takes

**Helen Raikes**, University of Nebraska–Lincoln | [hraikes2@unl.edu](mailto:hraikes2@unl.edu)

As communities inch forward in establishing early childhood systems for children to be learning and developing well, do we know what it takes for caregivers, educators, and communities to help children thrive and reach their potential? Helen Raikes, Willa Cather Professor of Child, Youth and Family Studies at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, will share what it means for children to thrive and how families, caregivers, and educators can support them. Dr. Raikes will describe what it takes for communities to provide the collaboration and coordination for children, families, teachers, providers, and communities to thrive.

10:20 a.m. *No Small Matter: Opportunity Gap*

10:35 a.m. Break

11:00 a.m. Morning Workshops

12:00 p.m. Lunch

12:30 p.m. Panel Discussion

## Community Success Stories: Success Is Possible

**Moderator: K.C. Belitz**, Nebraska Community Foundation | [kbelitz@nebcommfound.org](mailto:kbelitz@nebcommfound.org)

**Kerra Robinson**, The Valley Child Development Center | [kerratvcdc@outlook.com](mailto:kerratvcdc@outlook.com)

**Nici Johnson**, Educational Service Unit (ESU) 13 | [njohnson@esu13.org](mailto:njohnson@esu13.org)

**Myra Katherine Hale**, Pearl Academy | [myra.katherine@yahoo.com](mailto:myra.katherine@yahoo.com)

**Melinda Long**, Columbus Community Hospital Child Care Center | [mstrong@columbushosp.org](mailto:mstrong@columbushosp.org)

Hear from Nebraska communities and collaborators who have had success building high-quality early childhood development programs. No matter the size of your community, success is possible and panelists from Columbus, Fremont, Red Cloud, and the Panhandle will tell you what they've done—and are continuing to do—to support children, families, and communities.

1:30 p.m. **Panel Discussion**

**Economic Development and Early Childhood**

**Moderator: Elizabeth Everett**, First Five Nebraska | [eeverett@firstfive-nebraska.org](mailto:eeverett@firstfive-nebraska.org)

**Catherine Lang**, Nebraska Business Development Center | [cdlang@unomaha.edu](mailto:cdlang@unomaha.edu)

**Andy Long**, McCook Economic Development Corporation | [andy@mccookne.org](mailto:andy@mccookne.org)

**Bryan Seck**, Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development | [bseck@selectlincoln.org](mailto:bseck@selectlincoln.org)

**Gabriel Steinmeyer**, Norfolk Area Chamber of Commerce | [gabriel@norfolkareachamber.com](mailto:gabriel@norfolkareachamber.com)

Nebraska has one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country, with employers often having difficulty finding qualified workers to fill their jobs. Early childhood can be part of the solution! Listen to experts discuss why high-quality early childhood care and education is an economic development tool that can attract and retain a quality workforce and grow our state's economy.

2:30 p.m. ***No Small Matter: The Economic Case for Investing in Early Learning***

2:45 p.m. **Break**

3:00 p.m. **Afternoon Workshops**

4:00 p.m. **Networking Reception**

# Morning Workshops

## Thriving in the Transition to Kindergarten: What Communities Can Do to Support “Readiness”

**Kate Gallagher**, Buffett Early Childhood Institute | [kgallagher@nebraska.edu](mailto:kgallagher@nebraska.edu)

**Amanda Garrett**, Buffett Early Childhood Institute | [agarrett@nebraska.edu](mailto:agarrett@nebraska.edu)

**Kristen Cunningham**, Buffett Early Childhood Institute | [kristencunningham@unomaha.edu](mailto:kristencunningham@unomaha.edu)

We know from brain research that young children need high-quality care and education to do well and to be well. But what do we mean by high quality? This session will address high quality from the perspective of the child and explore ways adults can ensure a culture of high-quality care and education for young children in their communities.

## No-Cost/Low-Cost Ways Employers Can Help Working Parents of Young Children

**Elizabeth Everett**, First Five Nebraska | [eeverett@firstfivenebraska.org](mailto:eeverett@firstfivenebraska.org)

Nebraska ranks among the highest states in the nation for its percentage of working parents with young children, which means our state’s employers have a real stake in helping this important segment of the workforce provide for the early care and education of their children. This session will look at how business owners can better understand the needs of their employees and find easy and creative ways to promote information about quality child care and other supports to help working parents succeed as productive employees and more effective providers for their families.

## Communications 101: How to Communicate Effectively About Local Early Childhood Efforts

**Kelly Medwick**, Firespring | [kelly.medwick@firespring.com](mailto:kelly.medwick@firespring.com)

**Michael Medwick**, First Five Nebraska | [mmedwick@firstfivenebraska.org](mailto:mmedwick@firstfivenebraska.org)

**Erin Owen**, Buffett Early Childhood Institute | [eowen@nebraska.edu](mailto:eowen@nebraska.edu)

Learn how to maximize local communications resources and opportunities to promote your community’s early childhood goals in this interactive and hands-on session.

## Communicating Effectively With Policymakers About Early Childhood

**Greg Adams**, Nebraska Community College Association | [gregadams@neb.twcbc.com](mailto:gregadams@neb.twcbc.com)

**Heath Mello**, University of Nebraska | [hmello@nebraska.edu](mailto:hmello@nebraska.edu)

**Becky Veak**, First Five Nebraska | [bveak@firstfivenebraska.org](mailto:bveak@firstfivenebraska.org)

We all need to learn how to talk about important early childhood issues in a clear and concise manner—and in ways that we can be heard. It is especially important that our elected officials hear from us and about the early childhood challenges we face in our communities. In this session, former Speaker of the Nebraska Legislature Greg Adams and former Nebraska State Senator Heath Mello, who served as chairman of the appropriations committee will share their perspectives on how to communicate effectively, build relationships, and engage policymakers on early childhood issues.

## Nebraska Preschool Development Grant

**Amy Mart**, Buffett Early Childhood Institute | [amart@nebraska.edu](mailto:amart@nebraska.edu)

**Susan Sarver**, Buffett Early Childhood Institute | [ssarver@nebraska.edu](mailto:ssarver@nebraska.edu)

The Nebraska Preschool Development Grant vision is “a system where community leaders work together to provide opportunities for high-quality early care and education, starting at birth, and in coordination with the full suite of health, mental health, and social supports that families may need.” As part of this grant, the Buffett Early Childhood Institute has conducted a comprehensive needs assessment of families, early care and education providers, and key stakeholders across the early care and education system. This session will provide preliminary data from the needs assessment and will ask attendees to provide feedback and context about the data.

## Law Enforcement Support for Early Childhood Education

**Chief Ike Brown**, McCook Police Department | [ibrown@cityofmccook.com](mailto:ibrown@cityofmccook.com)

**Joshua Spaulding**, Council for a Strong America | [jspaulding@fightcrime.org](mailto:jspaulding@fightcrime.org)

**Chief Bryan Waugh**, Kearney Police Department | [bdwaugh@kearneygov.org](mailto:bdwaugh@kearneygov.org)

**Brig. Gen. Dayle Williamson**, United States Army (retired) | [daylewilli@aol.com](mailto:daylewilli@aol.com)

Police chiefs, sheriffs, and prosecutors are coming together to support early childhood education in Nebraska and across the nation! They are joining Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, which is a member of the national Council for a Strong America. In this session, Nebraska police chiefs and military leaders will participate in a panel discussion releasing a new Nebraska report on how high-quality early childhood programs can provide the foundation for school success, reduce involvement in the criminal justice system, and improve public safety.

## Cities in Action: Building Early Learning Communities

**Nancy Lim**, National League of Cities | [lim@nlc.org](mailto:lim@nlc.org)

**Tonja Rucker**, National League of Cities | [rucker@nlc.org](mailto:rucker@nlc.org)

Leaders in communities across the country recognize the importance of ensuring that young children and families thrive, and they understand that child well-being and thriving communities go hand in hand. They are using an Early Learning Community Action Guide to improve outcomes for young children by promoting and advancing key building blocks of success that ensure young children grow up safe, healthy, and ready to learn. Six cities in Nebraska and the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation are participating in a National League of Cities initiative, City Leadership for Building an Early Learning Nation. This session will highlight how three of the Nebraska cities and cities across the country are taking action by advancing the four key building blocks of an early learning community and provide opportunities for participants to consider what is next for their community.

## Capital Projects: Tools for Funding Your Center

**Sara Arnett**, Heritage Bank | [arnettsa@bankonheritage.com](mailto:arnettsa@bankonheritage.com)

**Eric Buchanan**, Buffett Early Childhood Fund | [eb@buffettearly.org](mailto:eb@buffettearly.org)

Is your community considering a significant capital investment to create a child care facility? This session will provide information on public grant and loan programs that may help bridge the gap between private donations and total project cost. Hear about tax credits and how they can entice donors. Learn what pieces of the puzzle you'll need to have in place before writing grants or approaching private donors.

## Building School-Community Partnerships Across Nebraska

**Misty Bear**, Wayne Community Schools | [mibeair1@waynebluedevils.org](mailto:mibeair1@waynebluedevils.org)

**Janette Merkel**, Buffett Early Childhood Institute | [jmerkel@nebraska.edu](mailto:jmerkel@nebraska.edu)

**Carolina Ibarra Nielsen**, Learning Community Center | [cibarra@oneworldomaha.org](mailto:cibarra@oneworldomaha.org)

**Kimberly Rausch**, Bellevue Public Schools | [kimberly.rausch@bpsne.net](mailto:kimberly.rausch@bpsne.net)

**Angie Richeson**, Gothenburg Early Childhood Learning Coalition | [angie.richeson@goswednes.org](mailto:angie.richeson@goswednes.org)

**Mirta Bustos**, Omaha Public Schools | [mirta.bustosrodriguez@ops.org](mailto:mirta.bustosrodriguez@ops.org)

Families, communities, and schools all share the responsibility for the care and education of children from birth through Grade 3, which is a critical time of development. In this session, representatives from four Nebraska communities will share examples of various approaches to partnerships between schools and community early childhood providers—all working together to ensure children's success in school and life.

# Afternoon Workshops

## Community Fundraising: Creating Your Fund Development Plan and Approaching Donors

**John Levy**, William and Ruth Scott Family Foundation | [johnlevy@omahafoundation.org](mailto:johnlevy@omahafoundation.org)

**Jessie Rasmussen**, Buffett Early Childhood Fund | [jr@buffettearly.org](mailto:jr@buffettearly.org)

**Jennifer Thielen**, Nebraska Children and Families Foundation | [jthielen@nebraskachildren.org](mailto:jthielen@nebraskachildren.org)

This session will provide information about how to create a fundraising plan, including ideas for researching and approaching potential funders. Practical knowledge and tools will be shared for communities to begin creating their own fundraising plans.

## Using Economic Development Funds to Grow Your Community's Child Care Infrastructure

**Deb Eggleston**, Nebraska Department of Economic Development | [deb.eggleston@nebraska.gov](mailto:deb.eggleston@nebraska.gov)

**Myra Katherine Hale**, Pearl Academy | [myra.katherine@yahoo.com](mailto:myra.katherine@yahoo.com)

In 2019 the Legislature passed LB160, a bill that provides a new funding mechanism for early childhood programs. Communities can now use Local Option Municipal Economic Development (LB840) funds to expand, improve, or build their early childhood infrastructure. In this discussion, participants will learn about these economic development funds, how they are used, and how to craft a proposal to leverage these funds for early childhood projects.

## Taking Employer Support for Quality Child Care to the Next Level

**Eric Buchanan**, Buffett Early Childhood Fund | [eb@buffettearly.org](mailto:eb@buffettearly.org)

**Diane Green**, Bright Horizons | [diane.green@brighthorizons.com](mailto:diane.green@brighthorizons.com)

More and more Nebraska employers are considering the role quality child care plays in attracting and anchoring a skilled workforce in their businesses and communities. In this session, we'll look at what employers need to know about exploring corporate child care solutions, partnering with local providers to ensure quality child care services for their workers, and finding other ways to offset the costs of high-quality early care and learning.

## Nebraska Thriving Index

**Eric Thompson**, University of Nebraska—Lincoln | [ethompson2@unl.edu](mailto:ethompson2@unl.edu)

The Nebraska Thriving Index is the first benchmarking tool for the state to efficiently determine the economic health of individual rural regions compared with like peers in Nebraska or other states in the region. Using this print report and the interactive online tool, community leaders can dig into eight indices of nearly 50 measures to develop strategic initiatives that target specific strengths and weaknesses of their region. A question and answer session will gather feedback for this inaugural report, which will be updated in 2020.

## The Quality Continuum

**Gladys Haynes**, Buffett Early Childhood Fund | [gh@buffettearly.org](mailto:gh@buffettearly.org)

**Janie Jantzen**, Gold Crest Child Day Care Center | [jjantzen@goldcrest.net](mailto:jjantzen@goldcrest.net)

When opening an early childhood center, an immediate focus is to meet state licensing requirements. Over time the focus evolves from meeting the minimum requirements, such as licensing, to the elements that contribute to a quality early childhood education and care program, including maintaining minimum adult to child ratios to engaging children in rich interactions, and from reacting to daily events to planning meaningful learning experiences. This session will focus on the journey from entry-level quality to higher standards of quality. Through various interactive activities and discussions, participants will identify indicators of quality and decisions to be made as early childhood programs move along the quality continuum.



### **Promoting Health and Wellness: Child Care Matters!**

**Donnia Behrends**, Nebraska Extension | [dbehrends2@unl.edu](mailto:dbehrends2@unl.edu)

**Lynne Brehm**, Nebraska Children and Families Foundation | [lbrehm@nebraskachildren.org](mailto:lbrehm@nebraskachildren.org)

**Jaci Foged**, Nebraska Extension | [jaci.foged@unl.edu](mailto:jaci.foged@unl.edu)

**Diane Kvasnicka**, Lincoln-Lancaster Health Department | [dkvasnicka@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:dkvasnicka@lincoln.ne.gov)

**Janice Lee**, Nebraska Children and Families Foundation | [jlee@nebraskachildren.org](mailto:jlee@nebraskachildren.org)

**Tasha Wulf**, Nebraska Extension | [tasha.wulf@unl.edu](mailto:tasha.wulf@unl.edu)

Learn promising and successful ways programs in Nebraska are promoting health and wellness in child care. Panelists will talk about ways to foster healthy nutrition and physical activity, promote emotional well-being, and create safe environments.

### **Inclusive Leadership Development: Advancing High-Quality Early Childhood Education**

**Helen Fagan**, Rural Futures Institute | [helen.fagan@unl.edu](mailto:helen.fagan@unl.edu)

**Terri Haynes**, Educational Service Unit (ESU) 13 | [thaynes13@edu13.org](mailto:thaynes13@edu13.org)

**Sandy Montague-Roes**, Western Community Health Resources | [director@wchr.net](mailto:director@wchr.net)

**Rachel Sissel**, Volunteers of America Western Nebraska | [rsissel@voa.org](mailto:rsissel@voa.org)

Learn about an innovative partnership between the University of Nebraska's Rural Futures Institute and communities where Community Innovation Fellows and Student Fellows work together on key projects. In this session, you'll learn about how these efforts support the development of inclusive leaders and hear from Community Innovation Fellows from Chadron and Garden County about the impact of their efforts.

### **Cities in Action: Building Early Learning Communities**

**Nancy Lim**, National League of Cities | [lim@nlc.org](mailto:lim@nlc.org)

**Tonja Rucker**, National League of Cities | [rucker@nlc.org](mailto:rucker@nlc.org)

Leaders in communities across the country recognize the importance of ensuring that young children and families thrive, and they understand that child well-being and thriving communities go hand in hand. They are using an Early Learning Community Action Guide to improve outcomes for young children by promoting and advancing key building blocks of success that ensure young children grow up safe, healthy, and ready to learn. Six cities in Nebraska and the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation are participating in a National League of Cities initiative, City Leadership for Building an Early Learning Nation. This session will highlight how three of the Nebraska cities and cities across the country are taking action by advancing the four key building blocks of an early learning community and provide opportunities for participants to consider what is next for their community.

# Keynote Speaker

## Helen Raikes, Ph.D.

Willia Cather Professor of Child, Youth and Family Studies at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln

Dr. Helen Raikes’ research focuses on early childhood development, with special emphases on infants, toddlers, and children at greatest risk. She studies children in poverty, school readiness and outcomes for success, along with optimal timing of intervention as it relates to developmental trajectories. In addition to teaching, Dr. Raikes is principal investigator for the Midwest Child Care Research Consortium and for the Quality Intervention in Early Care and Education study. She provides consulting services to numerous organizations, including the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Early Head Start Research and Evaluation Project, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation’s Early Learning Initiative, and the Bounce Learning Network.



Dr. Raikes previously held teaching positions at the University of California, Davis, and Iowa State University. She also worked at the Gallup organization, where she directed public opinion polls and other studies related to children and families. She holds a doctorate in child development from Iowa State University.

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## No Small Matter

Today’s conference showcases clips from *No Small Matter*, a documentary designed to kick-start a public conversation about the critical need for high-quality early care and education. Additional information about the film can be found at [nosmallmatter.com](http://nosmallmatter.com).

In 2019, the film has been screened in 28 communities. Screenings were attended by more than 1,700 Nebraskans representing more than 180 communities.

If you are interested in hosting a screening of the film for stakeholders in your community, contact Kaitlin Carlson ([kcarlson@nebraska.edu](mailto:kcarlson@nebraska.edu)) at the Buffett Early Childhood Institute.

## Following the Conference

Find resources from the 2019 Thriving Children, Families, and Communities Conference, including videos, presentations, and handouts, online following the conference at [buffettinstitute.nebraska.edu/thriving-children](http://buffettinstitute.nebraska.edu/thriving-children).

# Resources

## The Need for High-Quality Early Care and Education

- Early childhood is regarded as the period of time in a young child's life from **birth through age 8**. The brain is developing more rapidly during these early years of life than at any other time.<sup>1</sup>
- Parents are children's first teachers, but most young children are not with their parents for many hours of the day. Nebraska ranks as one of the **top five states** where all single or two-parent families are in the workforce. **Seventy-five percent of children under age 6** have all available parents in the workforce.<sup>2</sup>
- **Eighty-four percent of counties** in Nebraska with child care facilities do not have enough available slots to meet the current demand.<sup>2</sup>
- **Eleven counties in Nebraska** have no licensed child care facilities.<sup>2</sup>
- **Sixty-two percent of mothers with infants** are in the labor force in Nebraska.<sup>3</sup>
- **Seventy-six percent of child care centers** experienced turnover of lead teachers or assistant teachers during the prior year.<sup>4</sup>
- Given the challenges faced by many families and the early childhood experiences that many children have, **nearly 40 percent of children age 5 and younger** are at risk of failing in school (**59,856 children**).<sup>5</sup>

## Nebraskans' Views on Early Care and Education

- **The vast majority of Nebraskans** express support for early care and education.<sup>6</sup>
- **In overwhelming numbers**, residents say that high-quality care and education is not available or affordable for all families in Nebraska.<sup>6</sup>
- **More than two-thirds (68 percent)** of Nebraskans say that early care and education has a significant impact on the long-term success of children.<sup>6</sup>
- **Only 10 percent of residents** strongly believe that most young children are prepared to be successful in school when they start Kindergarten.<sup>6</sup>
- **Just 1 percent of residents** say all children birth to age 5 in Nebraska receive high-quality early care and education.<sup>6</sup>
- **Few Nebraskans (11 percent)** strongly agree that high-quality early care and education is available to every family in the state. **Even fewer (6 percent)** believe it is affordable.<sup>6</sup>
- **The majority of Nebraskans (67 percent)** believe the state should make early care and education a higher priority than it is today.<sup>6</sup>
- **About half (51 percent) of the state's residents** say the state should provide early care and education for all children from low-income families who choose to use it.<sup>6</sup>

# Status and Compensation of the Early Childhood Workforce

- **Nearly half of Nebraskans** believe that teachers and caregivers are paid too little.<sup>6</sup>
- Who is caring for children and how they are doing it matter greatly. The safety, relationships, and interactions between young children and their **parents, caregivers, and teachers** are the most important elements of a high-quality experience.<sup>9</sup>
- In 2015, the median annual **salary for child care professionals in Nebraska was \$18,706**, which is nearly **\$7,800 below the poverty line** for a family of four. The median annual **salary for K-3 teachers was \$41,000**, more than twice as much as those who teach in other early childhood settings.<sup>10</sup>
- **More than 11 percent** of home-based providers have a second job and **nearly 20 percent** of center-based teachers, public PreK teachers, and K-3 teachers **report holding a second job**.<sup>10</sup>
- Nearly **30 percent** of home-based providers and **20 percent** of center-based teachers **use public assistance**.<sup>10</sup>
- More than **13 percent** of home-based and center-based child care providers **report that their own school-aged children qualify for free or reduced price lunches**.<sup>10</sup>

## Return on Investment

- The **annual return on investment for each dollar** spent on high-quality preschool programs for children living in poverty **is 7-10 percent**.<sup>11</sup>
- Investment **returns increase to 13 percent** annually when early childhood programs span birth through age 5.<sup>11</sup>

# Affordability of Early Care and Education

- The average child care **subsidy payment** provided by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services to assist low-income families with child care costs **(\$3,344) is less than one-third** the cost of annual infant child care **(\$12,272)**.<sup>2</sup>
- The annual cost for center-based **infant care (\$12,272)** is higher than the average cost of **college tuition at a public four-year institution in Nebraska (\$8,510)**.<sup>7</sup>
- Nebraska spends nearly twice as much per student on **K-12 education (\$13,777/student)** as it does on **PreKindergarten (\$6,899/student)**.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Center on the Developing Child, Harvard University

<sup>2</sup>Kids Count, 2018

<sup>3</sup>State Baby Facts, Zero to Three

<sup>4</sup>Nebraska Early Childhood Workforce Survey, Buffett Early Childhood Institute

<sup>5</sup>First Five Nebraska

<sup>6</sup>Buffett Early Childhood Institute/Gallup Survey on Early Childhood Care and Education in Nebraska

<sup>7</sup>Kids Count, 2018 and College Board

<sup>8</sup>The State of Preschool, 2019, NIEER

<sup>9</sup>Transforming the Workforce for Children Birth Through Age 8: A Unifying Foundation, Institute of Medicine and National Research Council of the National Academies

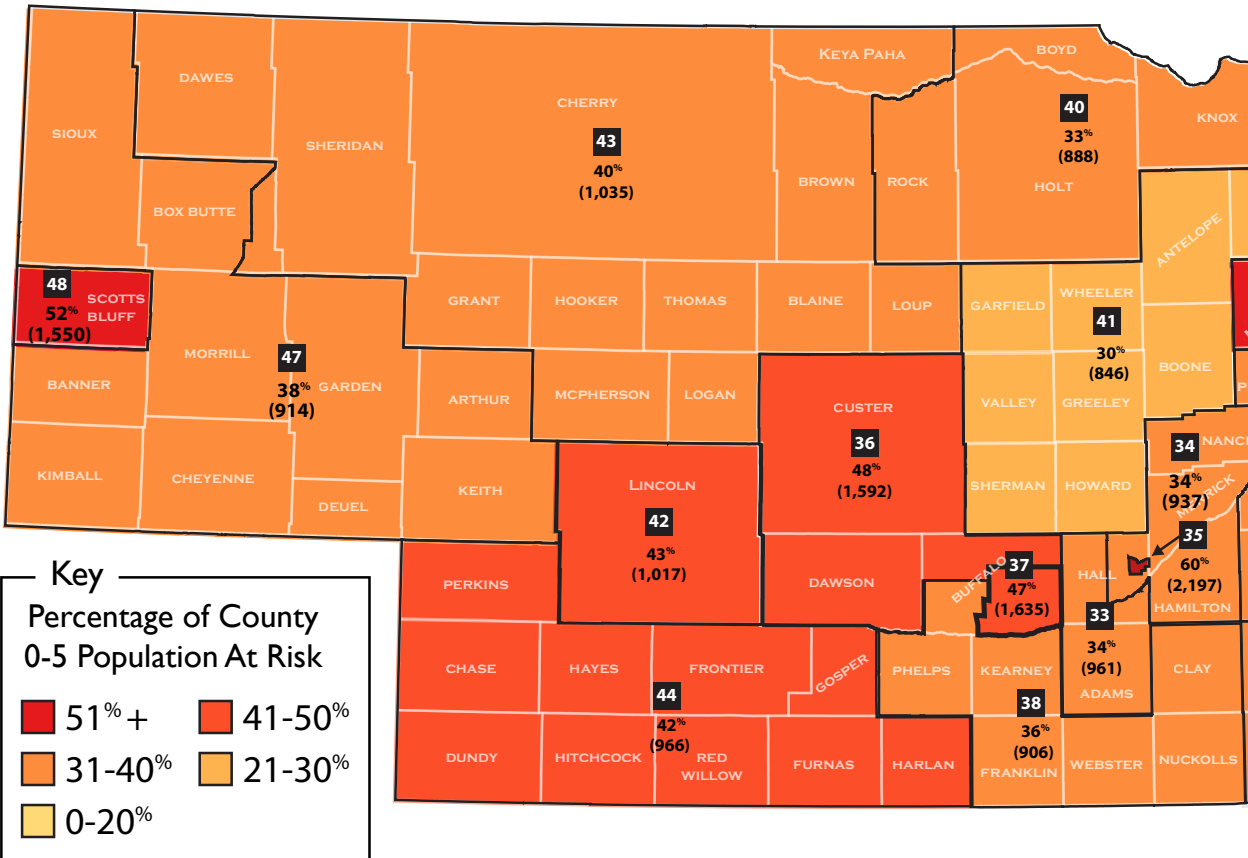
<sup>10</sup>Roberts, A.M., Iruka, I.U., & Sarver, S.L. (2017). Nebraska Early Childhood Workforce Survey: A focus on providers and teachers. This statistic is based only on those who responded to the survey and is not necessarily a representative sample of the state.

<sup>11</sup>The Heckman Equation

# Children Under 6 Years At Risk

Infants, toddlers and preschoolers most likely to face serious obstacles to health

## Greater Nebraska



**154,806** Number of Children Age 0-5 in Nebraska

**39% (59,000)** At Risk

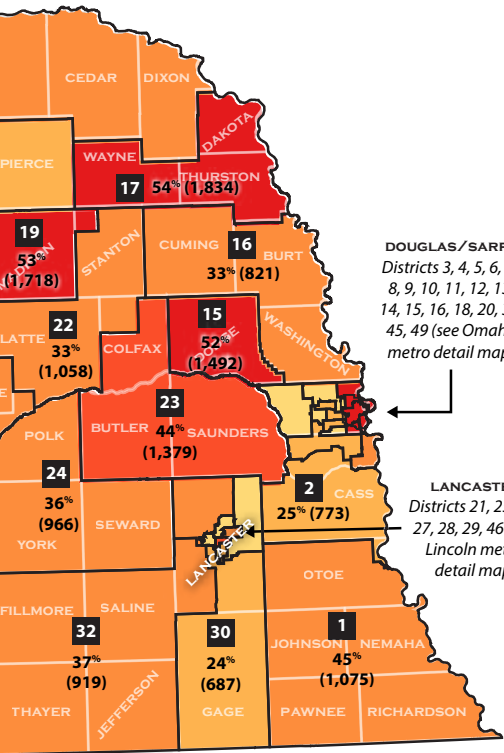
Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates; (<http://factfinder.census.gov>); (10 January 2019)



# Risk by Legislative District

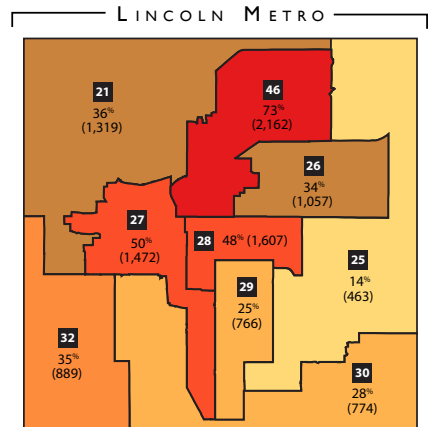
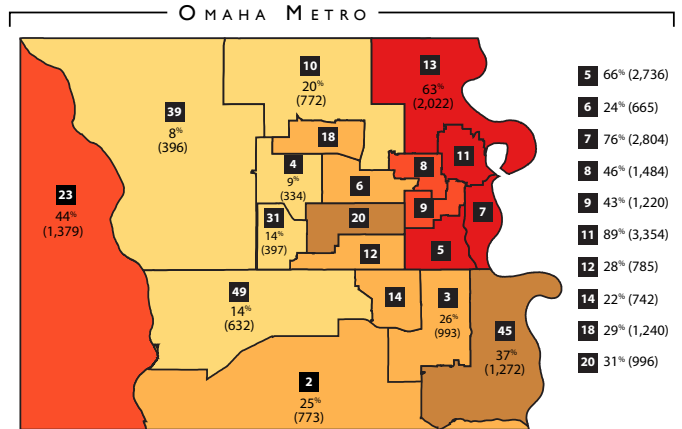
Healthy cognitive, emotional and social development

## Metro Areas



DOUGLAS/SARPY  
Districts 3, 4, 5, 6, 7,  
8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13,  
14, 15, 16, 18, 20, 39,  
45, 49 (see Omaha  
metro detail map)

LANCASTER  
Districts 21, 25, 26,  
27, 28, 29, 46 (see  
Lincoln metro  
detail map)



9,856)

Estimated Percentage and Number of Children Age 0-5 in Nebraska At Risk of Failing in School

Year Estimates, Table B17024; generated by First Five Nebraska; using American Factfinder;

v 9.3.19

# JOIN THE CONVERSATION .....



<b>First Five Nebraska</b>	<a href="http://firstfive-nebraska.org">firstfive-nebraska.org</a>
<b>Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children (NeAEYC)</b>	<a href="http://nebraskaaeyc.org">nebraskaaeyc.org</a>
<b>Nebraska Association of School Boards</b>	<a href="http://nasbonline.org">nasbonline.org</a>
<b>Nebraska Business Development Center (NBDC)</b>	<a href="http://unomaha.edu/nebraska-business-development-center">unomaha.edu/nebraska-business-development-center</a>
<b>Nebraska Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics</b>	<a href="http://nebraska-aap.org">nebraska-aap.org</a>
<b>Nebraska Children and Families Foundation</b>	<a href="http://nebraskachildren.org">nebraskachildren.org</a>
<b>Nebraska Community Foundation</b>	<a href="http://nebcommfound.org">nebcommfound.org</a>
<b>Nebraska Department of Education</b>	<a href="http://education.ne.gov">education.ne.gov</a>
<b>Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services</b>	<a href="http://dhhs.ne.gov">dhhs.ne.gov</a>
<b>Nebraska Early Childhood Collaborative</b>	<a href="http://nebraskaearly.org">nebraskaearly.org</a>
<b>Nebraska Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council (ESUCC)</b>	<a href="http://esucc.org">esucc.org</a>
<b>Nebraska Extension</b>	<a href="http://extension.unl.edu">extension.unl.edu</a>
<b>Nebraska Head Start Association</b>	<a href="http://neheadstart.org">neheadstart.org</a>
<b>Nebraska Hospital Association</b>	<a href="http://nebraskahospitals.org">nebraskahospitals.org</a>
<b>Nebraska State Education Association (NSEA)</b>	<a href="http://nsea.org">nsea.org</a>
<b>Nebraska Council of School Administrators (NCSA)</b>	<a href="http://ncsa.org">ncsa.org</a>
<b>Panhandle Partnership, Inc.</b>	<a href="http://panhandlepartnership.com">panhandlepartnership.com</a>
<b>Rural Futures Institute (RFI)</b>	<a href="http://ruralfutures.nebraska.edu">ruralfutures.nebraska.edu</a>
<b>Buffett Early Childhood Fund</b>	<a href="http://buffettearly.org">buffettearly.org</a>
<b>Buffett Early Childhood Institute</b>	<a href="http://buffettinstitute.nebraska.edu">buffettinstitute.nebraska.edu</a>

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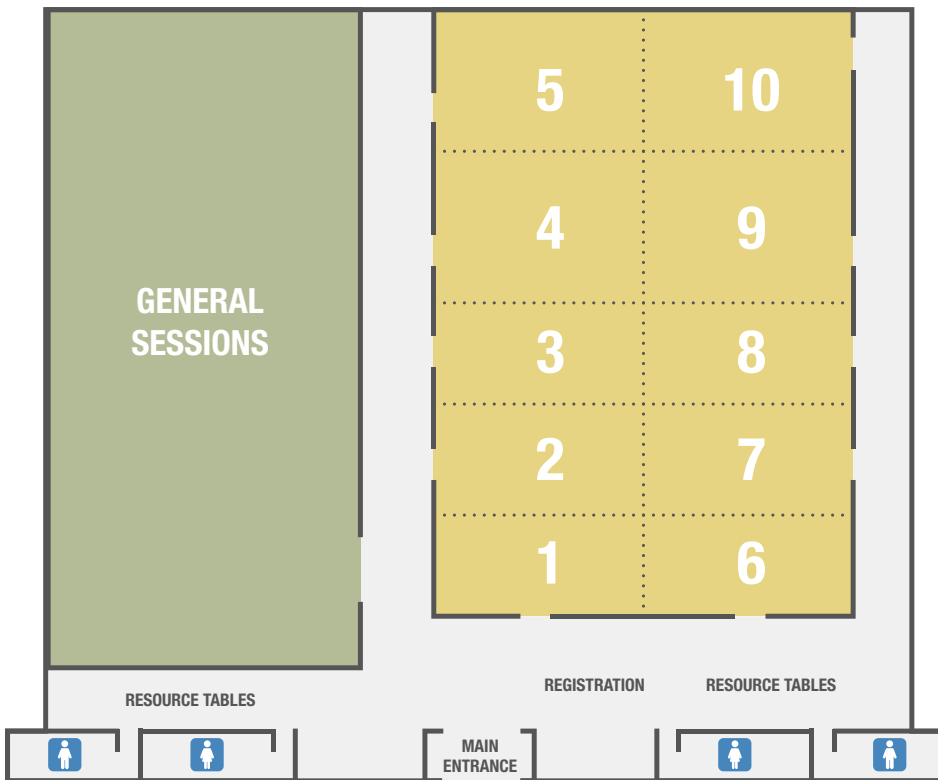
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# Workshop Locations



- |          |              |  |
|----------|--------------|--|
| <b>1</b> | A.M.<br>P.M. | Capital Projects: Tools for Funding Your Center<br>The Quality Continuum   |
| <b>2</b> | A.M.<br>P.M. | Thriving in the Transition to Kindergarten: What Communities Can Do to Support “Readiness”<br>Inclusive Leadership Development: Advancing High-Quality Early Childhood Education |
| <b>3</b> | A.M.<br>P.M. | No-Cost/Low-Cost Ways Employers Can Help Working Parents of Young Children<br>Taking Employer Support for Quality Child Care to the Next Level                                   |
| <b>4</b> | A.M.<br>P.M. | Communicating Effectively With Policymakers About Early Childhood<br>Community Fundraising: Creating Your Fund Development Plan and Approaching Donors                           |
| <b>5</b> | A.M.<br>P.M. | Building School-Community Partnerships Across Nebraska<br>(No afternoon session)   |
| <b>6</b> | A.M.<br>P.M. | Law Enforcement Support for Early Childhood Education<br>Promoting Health and Wellness: Child Care Matters!  |
| <b>7</b> | A.M.<br>P.M. | Nebraska Preschool Development Grant<br>Nebraska Thriving Index  |
| <b>8</b> | A.M.<br>P.M. | Communications 101: How to Communicate Effectively About Local Early Childhood Efforts<br>Using Economic Development Funds to Grow Your Community’s Child Care Infrastructure    |
| <b>9</b> | A.M.<br>P.M. | Cities in Action: Building Early Learning Communities<br>Cities in Action: Building Early Learning Communities   |



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