Early Childhood Policy and Systems Development

Thriving Children Conference
Kearney, Nebraska
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Federal Government

- The federal government is made up of three branches:
  - Executive
  - Judicial
  - Legislative

- Central responsibilities – Preamble of the Constitution:
  - Establish justice
  - Ensure domestic tranquility
  - Provide for the common defense
  - Promote general welfare
  - Secure the blessings of liberty

- Funds derived from:
  - Individual income, payroll, corporate income taxes, etc.
Sources of Federal Funding

**FIGURE 1**

Sources of Total Federal Tax Revenue
FY2016

**Share of federal revenue**

- **Individual income taxes**: 47.3%
- **Social insurance (payroll) taxes**: 34.1%
- **Corporate income taxes**: 9.2%
- **Excise taxes**: 2.9%
- **Other**: 6.5%

**Source**: Office of Management and Budget, Fiscal Year 2018, Historical Tables, Table 2.1.
Executive Branch

- Executive Branch (implements laws)
  - President and Vice President
  - Governmental Agencies/Departments
    1. Department of Health & Human Services
    2. Department of Education

- The President acts as both the head of state and commander-in-chief of the armed forces

- The independent federal agencies, although appointed by the President, are tasked with enforcing the laws enacted by Congress
Judicial Branch

- Judicial Branch (interprets laws)
  - The Supreme Court of the United States
  - U.S. Federal Court of Appeals
  - U.S. Federal District Courts
Legislative Branch

- Established by Article I of the Constitution

- U.S. Congress
  - Senate – 100 members
    - President of the Senate- Vice President
    - 2 representatives from each state
  - House of Representatives – 435 members
    - Speaker of the House, elected by the Representatives
    - State representation depends on population
    - Exclusive powers: bills that raise revenue, elect President during electoral college tie

- Responsibilities: Create new laws or change existing laws, establish an annual budget for government, etc.
Nebraska State Government

- Tenth amendment - all powers not granted to the federal government are reserved for the state and local governments
  - Each state has their own constitution and government agencies
  - Executive, judicial, and legislative branches

- Non-partisan Unicameral legislature – only one in the nation
  - 49 Senators (4 yr. terms)
  - Term limits (8 yrs.)

- Responsibilities: Pass a state budget (biennial budget) and creating and passing state laws

- State funding - Income, property, sales taxes, federal allocations, state lottery dollars, money from licenses and fees, etc.
State Legislative Policy

- Legislative (change or create law in statute)
  - Who?
    - State agencies who need to meet compliance
    - Governor has a policy agenda
    - Special interests
    - Concerned citizens
    - Senators enter with priorities
HOW LAWS ARE MADE IN THE UNICAMERAL

1. BILL INTRODUCTION
2. COMMITTEES
   - ADVANCE
   - HOLD
   - FAIL
3. GENERAL FILE
   - ADVANCE
   - AMEND
   - FAIL
4. SELECT FILE
   - ADVANCE
   - AMEND
   - FAIL
5. FINAL READING
   - PASS
   - FAIL
6. GOVERNOR
   - SIGN
   - DECLINE TO SIGN
   - VETO
   - VETO SUSTAINED
   - VETO OVERRISE

LAWS OF NEBRASKA
• Let’s use this as an example
State Administrative Policy

• Administrative Policy (Rules and Regulations)
  • State agencies implement laws through the rules and regulation process

• Agencies: Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services

• Drafting period, 30-day publication notice, public hearing, to the Attorney General to meet statutory and constitutional provisions, to the governor for policy review and final approval
State Agencies

- Nebraska Department of Education – Office of Early Childhood
  - Preschool Grants to Schools
  - Sixpence Infant Toddler Grants to Schools
  - Step Up to Quality Rating System
    - Early Childhood Professional Record System
  - Early Childhood Training Center
  - Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council

- Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
  - Child Care and Development Fund (Federal dollars)
  - Child care subsidy (Federal and state dollars)
  - Child care grants (Start-Up/Expansion, Emergency Mini, Quality Improvement)
  - Child care licensing
In FY 2016, **only 1.66 percent** of state general funds were spent on early learning.

- **Home Visitation**: 0.03%
- **Sixpence**: 0.08%
- **Step Up to Quality**: 0.02%
- **Pre-K Grants**: 0.09%
- **Child Care Subsidy**: 1.44%
- **Early Learning**: 1.66%
- **Remaining Total General Funds**: 98.4%

Source: Investing in Possibilities: The 2017 Nebraska Children's Budget. Holland Children's Institute, 2017
2018 Legislative Highlights

- LB768 - Local economic development funds for EC infrastructure
- LB880 - Early childhood assessment in comprehensive plans for cities
- LB803 - Teacher certification requirements for early childhood programs
- LB1108 - School Readiness Tax Credit clean-up bill
- LB1135 - Alternative pathways for teacher certification
- LR270CA - Constitutional amendment for universal pre-k
- Across-the-board cuts to agency programs
2019 Legislative Issues

• Property tax relief

• Medicaid expansion

• Nebraska Advantage Act

• Changes to K-12 funding formula
Questions??

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