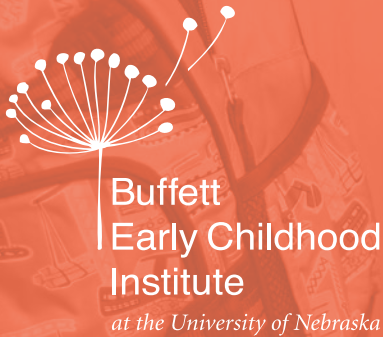




The Superintendents' Early Childhood Plan

All Children Deserve the Opportunity to Succeed

The Superintendents' Early Childhood Plan is a collaborative initiative of the 11 school districts of Douglas and Sarpy counties to develop early childhood programs for young children and families facing persistent economic and social disparities. The focus of the plan is on closing opportunity gaps so that all children can reach their full potential. In partnership with the Learning Community of Douglas and Sarpy Counties, the Buffett Early Childhood Institute provides leadership and support for the plan, which is an innovative and comprehensive approach to ensure early learning opportunities for all children.



34% of children under age 6

in Nebraska live in poverty,* which places them at increased risk for school failure.

*≤185% of the Federal Poverty Level | Data from the 2020 U.S. Census

The Superintendents' Plan in Action

The plan provides three interconnected levels of support for school districts, elementary schools, and community-based professionals to strengthen their birth through Grade 3 efforts:



1. Professional Development for All

Professional Development for All (PD for All) is an annual series of free learning opportunities available to early childhood professionals who work with children from birth through Grade 3 in Douglas and Sarpy Counties. These opportunities introduce evidence-based instructional practices while creating a space for early childhood professionals to gather and learn from one another. Each series is designed in response to the emerging needs of metro-area early childhood educators, who help shape both the content and format of PD for All.

2. Customized Assistance for School Districts

Customized Assistance provides access to consultation services through the Superintendents' Plan to all 11 school districts in the Learning Community. These services are tailored to the unique strengths and needs of each district and are designed to help them build their organizational infrastructure and capacity for providing quality early childhood programming to all young children in their district. Consultation services are provided by Institute staff in collaboration with other state and national consultants. Customized Assistance is one of the three levels of support offered through the Superintendents' Plan.

15,000 children

in PreK – Grade 3 are in districts with administrators and/or teachers who participate in professional development and Customized Assistance around early childhood programs and services

10 schools in 6 districts

are implementing School as Hub programming



140+

PreK – Grade 3 classrooms participating in School as Hub

2,600+

PreK – Grade 3 children impacted

3. School as Hub Programming for Birth Through Grade 3

School as Hub programming highlights the central role that schools can undertake as “hubs” that connect young children—and their families—with high-quality, comprehensive, and continuous early childhood education and services.

School as Hub features four integrated components:



Home visiting and family facilitation from birth to school enrollment

School-based family engagement staff provide regular, voluntary home visiting for individual families to support the development of strong parent-child relationships, child development skills, parenting education, and connections between parents and community resources. The home visiting programs have a strong link to the goals of elementary school programs so that home-school partnerships can be shaped from the beginning of a child’s life.



High-quality preschool experiences for 3- and 4-year-olds

Once children reach age 3, their families may choose to transition from home visiting into a school-based or community-based preschool. Family engagement staff continue the family support and education activities initiated during home visiting. In addition, ongoing professional development is provided for staff in School as Hub preschools to ensure high-quality learning experiences that build on the home visiting program.



Aligned Kindergarten through Grade 3 instruction

As children transition into Kindergarten, the School as Hub approach works to ensure that their early elementary education builds upon their preschool experiences to promote academic, intellectual, and social-emotional competence.



Intentional family partnerships for children birth through Grade 3

School as Hub schools collaborate with families and community partners to provide group activities and resources that are responsive to families’ interests and values. Together they build authentic partnerships among schools, families, early care providers, and community leaders to ensure all students have access to what they need to thrive—and to empower families to act as advocates and decision-makers in their children’s learning.

Support the Superintendents’ Plan

Let’s ensure all children have the opportunity to succeed.

Everyone—from policymakers to school staff to families—can support high-quality early childhood education.

School and district leaders:

We encourage you to take advantage of Customized Assistance and connect the Superintendents’ Plan to your district’s strategic planning efforts.

Educators:

Attend Professional Development for All.

Families:

See if you qualify for unique support such as home visitation and socialization activities.



Learn more about the Superintendents’ Early Childhood Plan by visiting

buffettinstitute.nebraska.edu or by scanning the code.