

Early Learning Advisory Board Purpose and Focus Statement

November 14, 2014

At the ELAB retreat on September 11, 2014, participants agreed that clarifying its purpose would help to guide its focus, actions and decision-making. The purpose and focus statement is meant to be a “living document” subject to review and revision in light of changing conditions and circumstances. What follows is intended to direct efforts for the upcoming year.

Act 178 designated in statute in 2012 that the purpose of the Early Learning Advisory Board (ELAB) is to serve in an advisory capacity to the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) about health, safety, development and learning issues affecting children, from prenatal care to kindergarten entry.

The ELAB is composed of 19 public and private representatives who can also speak as a collective independent voice, testify before the legislature and form workgroups and subcommittees to support its work.

Given its purpose, the upcoming transition for the EOEL and a new administration, ELAB's focus is,

- Working to help establish an integrated statewide system that reflects the holistic development of children and supports family engagement;
- Ensures sustainability of the Executive Office on Early learning (positions, funding, appointment of ED);
- Supporting the continuation of the work of the EOEL with cabinet presence;
- Becoming a resource and facilitator for the new Governor as well as for his administration;
- Facilitating the implementation of the USDOE Development Grant;
- Facilitating the implementation and sustainability of the Action Strategy;
- Working with the EOEL to make a smooth transition to the DOE as an attached agency;
- Taking action to keep the momentum going: educating legislators about early childhood needs/values; supporting appropriate legislation and the work of relevant departments; seeking alignment with departments and promoting cross-sector coordination.