

**The State Superintendent's Advisory Council for 4K and 4K Community Approaches
Recommendations for Superintendent Stanford Taylor
October 2020**

The State Superintendent's Advisory Council for 4K and 4K Community Approaches is pleased to provide the following recommendations to State Superintendent Stanford Taylor. These represent the voices of early care and educational professionals, families, and community members. The council believes the recommendations align with Superintendent Stanford Taylor and the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction's mission of educational equity and its five focus areas (effective instruction, school and instructional leadership, family and community engagement, safe and supported students, and meaningful relationships with students), and build upon the goals of the Wisconsin Preschool Development Grant (PDG). Additionally, they highlight the importance of strengthening partnerships among public schools, community approach partners (child care and Head Start), and other community resources (private business, early learning councils, etc.).

Recommendations: (Consensus of Council Members)

- 1) Create a 4K and 4KCA Statewide and Regional Infrastructure/System.** Request that the Wisconsin State Legislature repurpose (the maximum of available funding) the annual 4K Start-up Grant funds (\$1,350,000) to develop a statewide infrastructure/system to provide ongoing coordination, networking, support, technical assistance, and grant opportunities to 4K sites and cross-sector partners.

- 2) Regularly Communicate with District Superintendents.** At least quarterly, the Wisconsin state superintendent should intentionally communicate to district superintendents, through existing or new channels, the importance of 4K and 4KCA to districts, child care professionals, families, and community members.

Communication should highlight the significance of high-quality 4K and early education as foundational for future success in education (social and emotional, and academic) and the need for ongoing strategic communication among 4K, community partners, and the early elementary grades.

- 3) Promote Effective Cross-Sector Family and Community Engagement.** Request that the Department of Children and Families, Department of Health Services, and Head Start programs partner with DPI to do the following:
 - 1) Jointly fund a comprehensive state scan of how current state and federal funds are being used to support young children and families, and develop and propose policy changes to support capacity needs for effective family and community engagement.
 - 2) Develop and disseminate consistent evidence-based technical assistance to the early care and education providers to support implementation of effective practices for community and family engagement.

Additional Considerations:

Communities that offer only school-based 4K have few incentives to implement community approaches. Once a district is implementing 4K with community approach models, the district needs additional support to keep the approach operational and of high quality. This includes increased costs for administration, oversight, development, and maintenance. This will ensure that community sites and districts have communication and system structures to meet the 4K requirements and to effectively partner.

Throughout the process of identifying recommendations, the council engaged in numerous conversations about the importance and benefits of 4KCA for children, families, and communities. Within this context, the following recommendation was explored; however, the council could not reach full consensus on all aspects of the recommendation.

- 1) Incentivize 4K Community Approaches within Districts: (Council Consensus)**
 - a) Within the DPI biennial budget, increase funding for districts that implement a Community Approach by .1 FTE of membership aid. (Council Dissensus)

Closing:

The council would like to thank State Superintendent Stanford Taylor for her commitment to early childhood and her attendance at the council meetings. The council believes these recommendations will strengthen 4K and 4KCA programming and partnerships through the state and is grateful for the opportunity to put them forth for consideration.

The council looks forward to hearing Superintendent Stanford Taylor's response to its recommendations and is available to provide additional information and answer questions that may arise related to their content.