




Illinois Department of Early Childhood



SUPPORTING MULTILINGUAL LEARNERS WORKGROUP

February 27, 2025, 3:00-4:00 p.m.

Agenda

- Welcome, Connector & Announcements
- Early Intervention Cost Model
- Family Insights
- Birth-3 Co-Design Proposal
- Public Comment
- Next Steps

Community Agreements



Stay engaged



Speak your truth in a safe space



Take space, make space



Allow time for interpretation



Experience discomfort-
and name it – while being
open to new ideas



Show empathy and respect



Expect and accept lack of closure



Come prepared to actively participate in meetings



Avoid the use of acronyms and describe so everyone understands



Be flexible



Assume Positive Intent

Introductions



- Name
- Favorite movie

Example: Erin Arango-Escalante, Goonies

Workgroup Engagement

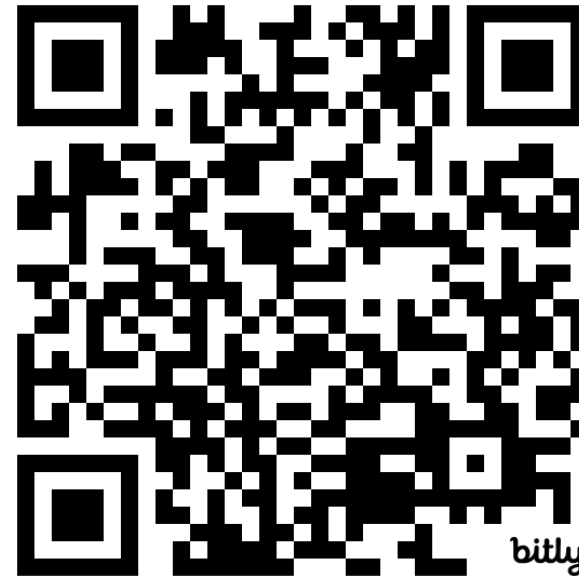
Workgroup Members

- <https://bit.ly/4fzjRAh>

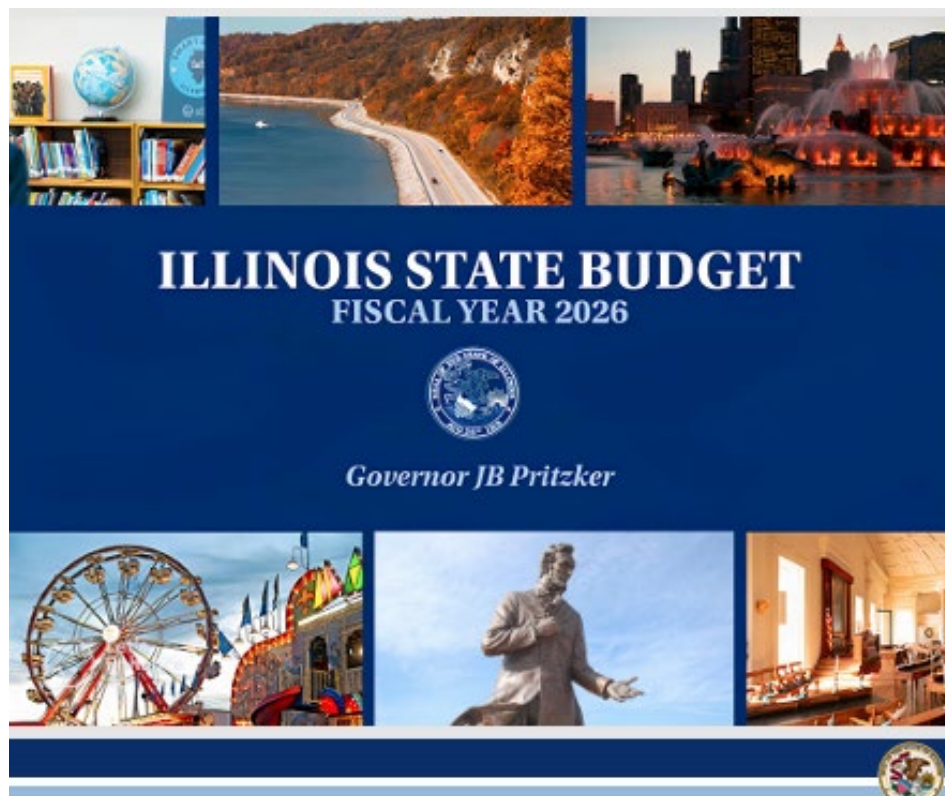


Members of the Public

- <https://bit.ly/3UGGnzk>



Governor's Budget



Investing in What Matters: Early Childhood Development

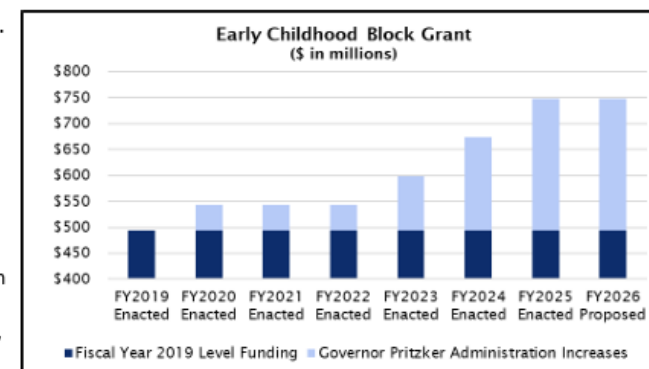
SMART START ILLINOIS: Investing in Early Childhood

Continued funding for the third year of the Governor's early childhood initiative

This multiyear program provides a comprehensive approach to investments in preparing children to be lifelong learners. Year 3 investments include:

- **\$21.7 million** in operational funding for the Illinois Department of Early Childhood.
- **\$748 million** to maintain investment in ISBE Early Childhood Block Grant funding.
- Approximately **\$200 million** investment in funding for nation-leading Early Childhood Workforce Compensation Contracts.
 - **\$90 million increase** to annualize the cost of the contracts and replace expired federal childcare funding.
- Other Early Childhood Investments include:
 - **\$85 million** in additional investment to cover expected increased participation in the Child Care Assistance Program.
 - **\$3.3 million** to continue expansion of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.
 - Today, more 61,000 children under the age of five have been signed up to receive free books in the mail every month.
 - **\$10 million** to support rate enhancements for the Early Intervention service providers.

IMAGINATION LIBRARY COVERAGE ACROSS ILLINOIS



Embargoed until 12:00 PM, Wednesday, February 19, 2025

Dreams for Multilingual Learners



inclusive spaces
multiculturalism
fully compensated teacher
proud career development
valued student wellness
all stakeholders intentional equity support
culture supported access
heritage thought-provoking
collective effort perspectives included
encouraged genuine approaches
valued families college-career success
opportunity positive experiences
curiosity workshops for bilingual
cultural-awareness intentional with material
inclusion-of-special-ed

leadership
celebrated
success

community
lives-changed opportunities
travel representation identity emotional support
empowered
readiness multiliterate
value comfortable supported staff
caring teachers promoted multilingual
uplifted

Modeling the Cost of Early Intervention in Illinois: Analysis and Recommendations

Prepared by Afton Partners for the Illinois Department of Human Services –
Division of Early Childhood

November 2024



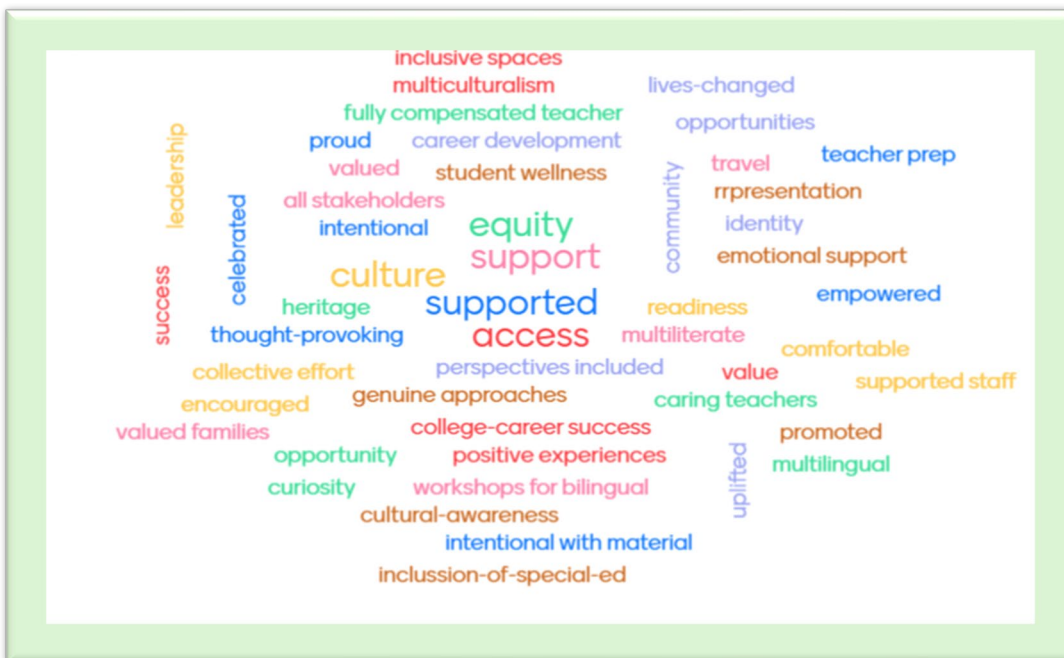
Barriers for Families & Providers

- Need for understanding and navigating the complex system
- Need for better coordination between programs and local collaboration
- Transportation
- Bilingual doulas
- Lack of bilingual child care options (especially for infant care)
- Teacher and therapist shortage
- Lack of intentional language use in many settings (focus on home language)
- Misinformation about bilingual children's development

Example Ideas from Families & Providers

- Require consistent/common communication, resources and collaboration in preferred language (e.g., navigating system)
- Beef up communication – home language, mechanisms, technology; include comms campaign on importance of home language use
- Provide a navigator for families with a trusted local organization – single point of entry
- Cross-reference ideas with Birth to 5 initiative and AOK network
- Provide car seats to address transportation issues
- Consider funding for bilingual doulas
- Explore additional funding for child care programs who accept multilingual children
- Explore pay increases for bilingual staff

Birth-3 Co-Design Proposal Opportunity



Draft-For Discussion

Developmental Support Services- Birth to 3

Co-Design System Proposal "Sprint"

February 7, 2025

Goal: Design ways to increase access to and participation in essential 0-3 services for families with young children with special needs, differentiated by region and community assets and needs. Equitable access and participation in 0-3 services will increase family and child autonomy, decrease reliance on state services (e.g., fewer students will need more intensive intervention and supports later in school if we are able to provide needed developmental supports early), and increase dependability of the state.

Approach: Over the next 12 months, in partnership with DHS, IDEC will assemble a team of partners to create implement a "co-design sprint" to develop a strategic plan for 0-3 services for families with young children with special needs. Over the next 6-9 months, this will include:

- engaging 2-3 regional communities in a co-design, human centered process to design better approaches to information access and participation models for 0-3 services.
- conducting a deep dive with the field, DHS, HFS and other legacy agencies, to map the current state of 0-3 services, with a focus on Early Intervention (including how it intersects with Home Visiting), to explore how to map the current opportunities and by leveraging the engagement and analytical support of the IDEC transition workstreams.
- mapping how to get from the current state to the desired future state.

The TAC and Workgroup on Families with Children with Special needs will get monthly updates on the work. The Illinois Interagency Council on Early Intervention (IICEI) will receive quarterly updates on the work.

What does success look like?

- IDEC is able to create a package of policy and system changes that: a) address the regional and racial disparities that persist in access to high quality services and supports – enabling more families, particularly black and rural families, (inclusive of linguistic diversity) to receive services in their setting of choice in a timely manner, and b) improve provider experience ensuring a strong and stable network of providers that reflect the diversity of Illinois' families.
- IDEC/IDHS is able to easily and effectively communicate eligibility and process for services and supports.
- IDEC has an approach to transition and more effectively bill Medicaid and private insurance for eligible services.

Public Comment



NEXT STEPS

Next Workgroup Meeting Dates

- Tuesday, March 18 at 3-4
- Wednesday, April 23 at 3-4
- Thursday, May 29 at 3-4



Illinois Department of Early Childhood