

[DRAFT] Family Engagement Survey (Statewide)

The Illinois Department of Early Childhood (IDEC) will officially launch on July 1, 2026 to make life simpler, better, and fairer for tens of thousands of Illinois families. Families have shared that they struggle with repeatedly entering the same information, understanding eligibility requirements, and accessing resources.

This survey is designed to help us understand current families' experiences with accessing and receiving early childhood services and resources for their young (age birth to 5 years old) child(ren) This survey will inform IDEC's planning and design of a statewide Family Engagement Framework.

If you have questions, please contact Erin Arango-Escalante (erin@allchildren-thrive.com) or Paige Greenwood (paige.greenwood@illinois.gov)

When you submit this form, it will not automatically collect your details like name and email address unless you provide it yourself.

* Required

1. First and Last Name *

Enter your answer

2. Email *

Enter your answer

3. Phone Number *

Enter your answer

4. County *

Enter your answer

5. Zip Code *

Enter your answer

6. What age(s) are your child(ren)? *

☐ 0-3 years old

☐ 3-5 years old

☐ 5 and older

7. What age(s) are your child(ren)? *

☐ 0-3 years old

☐ 3-5 years old

☐ 5 and older

8. What is your preferred language? *

Enter your answer

9. What type of program or care does your child participate in? *

☐ Child Care/Pre-K

☐ Family/In Home Child Care

☐ Family, Friend, and Neighbor

☐ Center-Based Care

☐ Other

10. Please select ALL the type of services you have received in early childhood *

☐ Home Visiting

☐ Early Intervention

☐ Early Childhood Special Education

☐ Head Start/Early Head Start

☐ Preschool for All

☐ Other

11. At the early care and education program (i.e., preschool, child care) that my child is enrolled... *

Strongly Disagree

Disagree

Neutral

Agree

Strongly agree

I receive
information in a
way that I
understand.

☐☐☐☐☐

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
My families cultural, linguistic, and accessibility needs are met.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I am comfortable reaching out for help connecting to services (e.g. child care transportation, meal programs, early intervention, mental health supports, etc.)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I'm aware of meaningful ways that I can engage and share feedback that impacts policy and program delivery.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I feel like a partner in my child's learning and development.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

12. Who do you reach out to for information about services in your community? (e.g. child care transportation, meal programs, early intervention, mental health supports, etc.) *

- ☐ Local Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (CCR&Rs)
- ☐ All Our Kids (AOK) Early Childhood Networks
- ☐ Birth to 5 IL Parent Councils
- ☐ Local School Districts
- ☐ Local Child and Family Connections
- ☐ None of the above
- ☐ Other

13. In relation to the newly formed Illinois Department of Early Childhood (IDEC), *

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
I have a clear understanding of the progress related to the transition process.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Strongly Disagree

Disagree

Neutral

Agree

Strongly agree

I have a clear understanding of opportunities to engage with the state on workgroups, listening sessions, or advisory bodies.

☐☐☐☐☐

I have received clear communication from IDEC on how my feedback has been used in the transition process.

☐☐☐☐☐

The engagement opportunities are accessible to my language and scheduling needs.

☐☐☐☐☐

It is easy for me to find information on the IDEC website related to early childhood programs and services.

☐☐☐☐☐

Strongly Disagree

Disagree

Neutral

Agree

Strongly agree

I am
knowledgeable
about the new
early childhood
agency (IDEC)

☐☐☐☐☐

14. As a parent, what are you hoping to gain from the newly formed IDEC? *

Enter your answer

15. If you have participated in IDEC engagement opportunities (listening sessions, surveys workgroups, etc.), what did like and/or dislike about how it was structured or organized for parents? *

Enter your answer

16. What should IDEC be made aware of related to your families experience in the early childhood system? *

Enter your answer

17. Is there anything else you would like to let IDEC know about your experience participating in the Illinois early childhood system? *

Enter your answer

18. In the future, at what level do you hope to engage as a parent in IDEC's transition process? *

- ☐ **Workgroup Member** - Share lived experience, provide feedback, and inform system design.
- ☐ **Engaged Contributor** - Deepen participation and support with shared understanding across the workgroups.
- ☐ **Community Ambassador** - Serve as a bridge between families, communities, and early childhood systems.
- ☐ Other



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