

Overview of Laws, Statutes & Regulations

supporting the work of the
Nebraska Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council (ECICC)

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

■ **IDEA—Individuals with Disabilities Education Act**

1986 The Education of the Handicapped Act (EHA) established:

- the Part H (Early Intervention—later becomes Part C) program for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities, a federal grant program that assists states in operating a comprehensive statewide program of early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities, ages birth-3. It required the governor to designate a lead agency to receive the grant and administer the program and appoint an Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC), including parents of young children with disabilities, to advise and assist the lead agency.
- Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) for children with disabilities ages 3-5 (later becomes Part B-619)

Note: Since 1979, Nebraska has provided FAPE for children with disabilities ages birth-21.

1990 P.L. 99-457 EHA (Education of the Handicapped Act) becomes *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)*

2004 Reauthorization of IDEA—Public Law 108-446

Section 641 –Requires states to establish a state interagency coordinating council (SICC).

- The SICC is to “advise and assist the lead agency in identification...support ... and integration of services for infants and toddlers with disabilities and at-risk infants and toddlers and their families, regardless of whether at-risk infants and toddlers are eligible for early intervention services in the State.”
- Members are to be appointed by the Governor to “reasonably represent the population of the State.”
- Composition [representation] of the council membership is prescribed; meeting requirements and functions of the Council are described.

■ **Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007**

Public Law 110-134-Dec 12, 2007 121, Stat. 1411-1413, Section 642B:

- Reauthorizes the Head Start State Collaboration Office (HSSCO) to build early childhood systems, create partnerships between Head Start grantees and local programs, and facilitate Head Start involvement in state policies.
- Amends the Head Start Act by adding that the Governor shall:
 - “designate or establish a council to serve as the State Advisory Council [SAC] on Early Childhood Education and Care for children from birth to school entry...”
 - appoint members to the SAC according to representation outlined in the Act.

NEBRASKA LEGISLATION

■ **Quality Child Care Act [NRS 43-2601 to 43-2625]**

The Quality Child Care Act was passed by the Nebraska Legislature in 1991, with the intent “to promote the growth and development of a comprehensive child care system which meets the needs of families in Nebraska...”

The Act sets priorities for training of child care providers and finds that funding provided by the federal Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (CCDF) will “provide new funding to improve child care and early childhood education and school-age care in Nebraska.”

■ **Early Intervention Act**

Passed by the Nebraska Legislature in 1993 as LB 520, the intent of the Early Intervention Act was “to assist in securing early intervention services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families in accordance with the federal early intervention program...”

- It entitles services coordination for families who have an infant or toddler with a disability, requires family-centered interagency coordination of services, and is designed to maximize the effectiveness of state and community resources already in place, avoid duplication of services, and more clearly define the roles of state and community agencies.
- The act defines the roles of state agencies and establishes the planning regions to assist in the planning and implementation of the Early Intervention Act in local communities and regions.

■ **Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council (ECICC) [NRS 43-3401-43-3403]**

Passed by the Nebraska Legislature in 2000 as LB 1135, the statute created the Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council (ECICC).

- The ECICC is to “advise and assist the collaborating agencies in carrying out the provisions of:
 - Early Intervention Act
 - Quality Child Care Act
 - Other early childhood care and education initiatives under state supervision.
- Members are to be appointed by the Governor.
- Membership representation requirements and council advisory duties are described.

■ **Kindergarten**

Nebraska Revised Statutes, Sections 79-212, 29-214, and 79-278, revised in 2010.

- Sets requirements for number of hours for kindergarten programs offered by public school districts.
- Sets requirements pertaining to age, physical and visual examinations for admission of children.

NEBRASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

All Nebraska state agency regulations are compiled in the *Nebraska Administrative Code (NAC)*. Each agency is assigned certain *titles* of the Code for its rules and regulations.

■ **Regulations–Nebraska Department of Education (NDE)**

The following NDE Titles are related to the work of the ECICC:

- Rule 11–Regulations for Early Childhood Education Grant Programs
- Rule 51–Special Education Program Standards

■ **Regulations–Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)**

The following DHHS Titles are related to the work of the ECICC:

- Title 390: Child Welfare and Juvenile Services
- Title 391: Child Care Licensing
- Title 392: Child Care Subsidy Program
- Title 467: Medically Handicapped Children’s Program . . .
- Title 474: Social Services for Families, Children and Youth
- Title 477: Children’s Medical Assistance Program
- Title 480: Home and Community-based Waiver Services . . .

The following DHHS document provides vision, guidance, and standards for the implementation of early intervention services coordination and is related to the work of the ECICC:

- *Nebraska HHS Finance and Support Manual–Early Intervention Services Coordination*

Copies and URLs of the above legislation and rules may be accessed at:

<http://www.education.ne.gov/ecicc/ECICCDocuments.htm>