

Implementation and Budget Details 2020 ECAC Recommendation to Governor Evers

Recommendation Name:

Reducing Early Childhood Suspension and Expulsion

Recommendation:

We recommend investing in a package of supports that includes greater access to early social and emotional learning for children and coaching for caregivers, as well as the creation of an infant and early childhood mental health consultation system. We also recommend continuing to speak out about the importance of social and emotional learning and the negative impact of suspension and expulsion on children's future development.

Implementation Details:

The package of supports includes three main initiatives:

- **Funding for early social and emotional development training and coaching:** Funding for social and emotional development training and coaching would increase the use of the Wisconsin Pyramid Model. The Wisconsin Pyramid Model is a framework for implementing a culturally responsive and equitable multi-leveled system of supports designed to enhance social and emotional competence of young children, promote the development of program policies and practices, and provide early care and education with practice-based coaching to ensure that evidence-based practices are integrated and used with fidelity.
- **Creation of an infant and early childhood mental health consultation system:** This system is an evidence-based collaborative intervention provided by a professional with mental health expertise that improves outcomes for all children. It builds adults' capacity to strengthen and support children's social and emotional health and development.
- **Expansion of Behavior Help Wisconsin:** This program is a tiered model of support for children, families, and early educators aimed at addressing the key factors of early expulsion, including challenging behaviors, traumatic experiences, and implicit bias. This program is being piloted in western Wisconsin counties (Chippewa, St. Croix, Dunn) and in historically underserved Milwaukee communities (zip codes 53204, 53206, 53210, 53215, 53218).

Financial Commitment:

The ECAC recommends an investment of \$12,600,000 in this area. The funding needs are broken down below.

Initiative	Amount
Social and Emotional Development Training and Coaching	\$5,000,000
Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation System	\$5,300,000
Expansion of Behavior Help Wisconsin	\$2,300,000