



# Early Childhood Action Plan

## *Presentation to B – 3 Interagency Council*

**Dr. Mandy Cohen**  
**Secretary, NC Department of Health and Human Services**  
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## **Our Vision for NC's Children**

All North Carolina children will get a healthy start and develop to their full potential in safe and nurturing families, schools and communities.

# By 2025, all North Carolina young children from birth to age eight will be:

- 1) **Healthy:** Children are healthy at birth and thrive in environments that support their optimal health and well-being
- 2) **Safe and Nurtured:** Children grow confident, resilient and independent in safe, stable and nurturing families, schools and communities
- 3) **Learning and Ready to Succeed:** Children experience the conditions they need to build strong brain architecture and school readiness skills that support their success in school and life





# Healthy

Children are healthy at birth and thrive in environments that support their optimal health and well-being





# Healthy | 2025 GOALS



## INFANT MORTALITY

By 2025, decrease the statewide infant mortality rate from 7.2 to 5.9 deaths per 1,000 live births



## HEALTHY BIRTH WEIGHT

By 2025, decrease the percentage of North Carolina infants born at a low birth weight from 9.2% to 8.2%



## PREVENTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

By 2025, increase the annual percentage of North Carolina's young children enrolled in Medicaid who receive regular well-child visits

- For children ages 0 – 15 months, increase from 61.9% to 68.7%
- For children ages 3 – 6 years, increase from 69.3% to 78.5%



## FOOD INSECURITY

By 2025, decrease the percentage of children living across North Carolina in food insecure homes from 20.9% to 17.5%





# Safe and Nurtured

Children grow confident, resilient and independent in safe, stable, and nurturing families, schools and communities



# Safe and Nurtured | 2025 GOALS



## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

By 2025, decrease the rate of children in North Carolina who are victims of maltreatment



## TIME TO PERMANENCY FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

By 2025, decrease by 10% the number of days it takes for children in the foster care system to be either reunified with their family, placed under guardianship, another adult is given custody, or the child is placed into adoption



## SOCIAL EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING AND RESILIENCE

By 2025, increase measures of social and emotional well-being and resilience of young children by \_\_\_\_\_%\*

\*In Data Development

A close-up photograph of two young girls hugging. The girl on the left has long blonde hair and is smiling broadly. The girl on the right has curly brown hair and is also smiling. They are both wearing bright clothing, with the girl on the right in a pink top. The background is softly blurred, suggesting an outdoor setting.

# Learning and Ready to Succeed

Children experience the conditions they need to build strong brain architecture and school readiness skills that support their success in school and life





# Learning and Ready to Succeed | 2025 GOALS



EARLY DEVELOPMENT



KINDERGARTEN READINESS



3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE READING PROFICIENCY



# Learning and Ready to Succeed | 2025 GOALS + METRICS



## EARLY DEVELOPMENT

By 2025, increase the percentage of children across North Carolina who demonstrate on track developmental skills.\*

Children who demonstrate on-track language skills at 24, 36, and 48 months\*

Children screened for developmental delay at well-child visits

Children with a developmental delay, who are referred to and receive services\*

Parents who regularly read with their children

Number of books in a family home

\*In Data Development



# Learning and Ready to Succeed | 2025 GOALS + METRICS



## KINDERGARTEN READINESS

By 2025, increase the percentage of children across North Carolina who enter kindergarten developmentally on track, according to the Kindergarten Entry Assessment.\*

Children under age 6 who are in licensed, high quality centers and homes

Eligible children under age 6 receiving child care subsidy

Early childhood teachers with post-secondary early childhood education

Early childhood administrators and principals with post-secondary early childhood education

Teachers working with priority populations who receive targeted training

**+ Others**

\*In Data Development



# Learning and Ready to Succeed | 2025 GOALS + METRICS



## 3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE READING PROFICIENCY

By 2025, increase the percentage of children achieving reading proficiency across the state from 58% to 64% according to NC DPI Performance Data on third grade reading EOGs, and from 39% to 43% according to the fourth grade National Assessment of Education Progress.

Reading proficiency for priority populations: Black or African-American (non-Hispanic), American Indian (non-Hispanic), Hispanic

Kindergarten students reading or exhibiting pre-literacy behaviors at or above grade level

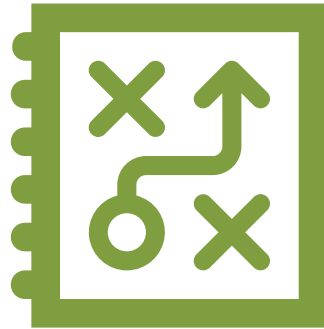
1<sup>st</sup> grade students reading at or above grade level by the end of the year

2nd grade students reading at or above grade level by the end of the year



# Moving Forward

## Identifying Strategies



Content-based work groups to identify and prioritize strategies

## Tracking Progress



Development of an online Data Dashboard for annual metrics



# Seeking Your Input

- Weigh in?
- What's missing in goals and metrics?
- What strategies should we consider for **Learning**?







**Questions?**