

# Arizona's Early Childhood Statewide Strategic Plans

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Arizona's federally reviewed and approved comprehensive statewide needs assessment took a unique approach in leveraging current strategic plans of Arizona's Early Childhood System Partners. These comprehensive plans represent the system as a whole and address the concerns and issues related to quality and availability of early childhood care and education throughout the state.

The Arizona Department of Education (ADE) collaborated with seven regions throughout the state. These regions served as Local Planning Committees (LPCs) in which they leveraged system partners' strategic plans to determine key goals and outcomes for their communities relative to Arizona's five priority areas.



Read On Arizona (ROA) is the home of Arizona's appointed Literacy Director who is responsible for working in partnership with ADE, HSSCO, FTF, and other local philanthropic partners to lead statewide efforts around early literacy.



Through the Head Start State Collaboration grant from the US Department of Health and Human Services, the AZ Head Start State Collaboration Office (HSSCO) serves to establish linkages among Head Start, child care, social welfare, health and state funded preschool programs, and K-12 education.



The Department of Economic Security - Child Care Administration (DES-CCA) has administrative oversight for the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) and the administration of child care subsidies within the state.



First Things First (FTF) serves as the Health and Development Board for Arizona as well as the State Advisory Council (SAC) for Early Childhood.



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**HSSCO:** Assist with developing state policies and decisions impacting early literacy data.

**FTE:** Ensure that the early childhood system is comprehensive and child and family centered.

**ADE:** Implement Teaching Reading Effectively to early childhood educators.

**ROA:** Increase awareness and understanding of the importance of early literacy and school readiness.

**HSSCO:** Close the learning gap between typically developing children and children with special needs.

**FTE:** Provide access to early periodic screening and diagnosis to identify developmental issues.

**ADE:** Provide training on Itinerant Model and Inclusive Classroom Profile and a task force on inclusion.

**ROA:** Implement strategies to develop and strengthen literacy and language acquisition along the continuum.



Quality transitions for all children is a primary focus for Arizona and expands to all priority areas and strategic plans throughout the early childhood system.

**HSSCO:** Increase access to high quality early care and education services.

**FTE:** Increase access to high quality early care and education that promotes optimal development.

**DES:** Expand accessibility and continuity of care and improve availability of child care services to families.

**ROA:** Build a community of practice that make early literacy a priority.

**HSSCO:** Increase availability and quality of early childhood PD.

**FTE:** Implement, align, and improve PD to support early childhood professionals.

**DES:** Support training and PD of child care workforce.

**ROA:** Improve quality of professional learning by increasing capacity of practitioners.

**HSSCO:** Increase access to high quality, early care and education services.

**FTE:** Improve quality and compensation of early childhood education professionals.

**DES:** Follow PD framework to support child care workforce.

**ROA:** Strengthen the practitioners/early childhood teacher training around early literacy and reading instruction.