

Implementation Plan



Join us! The Duluth Public Library is building a coalition of community partners to advance the strategic directions of the Every Child Ready Duluth initiative. We're committed to intentionally weaving diversity, equity, and inclusion throughout all goals and activities. Please contact Carmella Hatch at chatch@duluthmn.gov for more information about how you can be involved.

We want to recognize the ECRD Steering Committee

- **Carl Crawford**, City of Duluth Human Rights Officer & Family Freedom Center Vice President
- **Lynn Haglin**, Northland Foundation Vice President & KIDS PLUS Director
- **Molly Harney**, Ph.D, University of Minnesota Duluth, Associate Professor of Early Childhood Studies
- **Jen Jaros**, ISD 709 Early Childhood Family Education Coordinator
- **Amber Lightfeather**, Duluth Indigenous Commission member, American Indian Parent Advisory Committee (Duluth Edison Charter Schools, Chair and ISD 709 Schools, Vice Chair), and Duluth Edison Charter Schools Executive Board member
- **Jana Nachtsheim**, St. Mary's Birthplace (Essentia Health) Nurse Manager
- **April Westman**, Aunty's Child Care Owner
- **Sheryl (Sherry) Williams**, ISD 709 Duluth Preschool Director
- **Heather Winesett, M.D.**, St. Luke's Pediatric Associates Pediatrician



Every Child Ready Duluth

Strategic Plan 2021-2023

VISION: Every child in Duluth has the opportunities and support needed to learn and succeed in kindergarten and beyond. We are committed to supporting children of every race, color, culture, creed, ability, family status, gender identity, and family income.

MISSION: Every Child Ready Duluth unites families, caregivers, educators, and community partners to advance Duluth's capacity to support children's development so they are prepared and excited to learn when entering kindergarten.

COMMITMENT: We will work to remove barriers and foster a community network to equitably support, educate, and advocate for young children of Duluth and their families. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are intentionally woven throughout all goal areas and activities.



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Ready Community

Community members, businesses, healthcare providers, and organizations recognize that investing in early childhood education benefits the community. They understand the scope of school readiness and actively support culturally informed, community-based efforts to ensure that all young children are prepared for school.



Ready Education System & Early Childhood Educators

Education systems, including child care environments and the public library, are equipped to support all young children in becoming school ready in developmentally, age appropriate, and culturally inclusive ways. Educators have strong community partners to support their efforts.



Ready Families & Caregivers

Families have an understanding of early child development and the importance of secure attachments. Parents understand they are their child's advocate and first teacher. They have access to needed resources and are supported in their efforts to prepare their children for school.



Ready Child

Children entering kindergarten approach learning with curiosity and confidence. Their physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development readies them for optimal school success based on their unique abilities and characteristics. Ready children have been supported from birth by relationships with caring adults who understand the importance of positive early childhood experiences and play-based learning.



GOALS



Create a coalition of community partners committed to supporting Duluth's children (prenatal to kindergarten) and their families, and together introduce and enhance services and practices related to school readiness.



Communicate broadly about the various aspects contributing to school readiness to foster a community that invests in resources for families and makes decisions with our youngest generation's best interest in mind.



Through education and advocacy, work to eliminate the barriers to school readiness with attention to adverse childhood experiences.

GOALS



Create a close partnership between Duluth School District ISD 709, charter, and private schools, Duluth Public Library and the ECRD coalition to support children in early education systems.



Partner with area preschools, child care centers, and home-based child care by connecting with them to identify and provide needed resources in order to create high quality early childhood care and education experiences.



Ensure children and families of all cultures feel valued and comfortable sharing and celebrating their family's culture, traditions, and values within early childhood care and education settings.

GOALS



Ensure parents and families have opportunities to learn about child development, parenting, and school readiness, and embrace their child's individual needs in order to have a successful school experience.



Connect parents and families to information and community resources regarding healthcare, housing, food security, income security, and other needed services and empower them to utilize these services.



Build relationships with parents and create opportunities for parents and families to engage in dialogue, learn together, and provide input about the initiative.

GOALS



Support the development of strong, healthy relationships between adults and children so children have the resilience to cope with challenges and are confident in their inherent worth.



Promote and provide opportunities, resources, and spaces for children to build key developmental and early learning skills through play.



Collaborate to increase children's access to resources that support their physical and mental well-being.