

MAISA Core Beliefs for Early Childhood Education and Care

- Providing and promoting comprehensive Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) will improve Michigan's:
 - child/student learning
 - family stability
 - workforce development and productivity
 - economic prosperity
- Cooperation, leading to collaboration, among communities and between organizations that touch the lives of children 0-5 and their families must be standard operating procedures in order to provide comprehensive, high quality ECEC services to families with young children 0 to 5.
- Collaboration can maximize the use of resources to best meet the needs of Michigan's young children and their families, but must be grounded in the following two core beliefs.
- The only acceptable system of ECEC must provide and integrate these high quality core components:
 - Maternal and child health care (physical and mental)
 - Childcare that supports children's social, emotional, motor and cognitive development
 - Universally available preschool from age 3
 - Voluntary, universal services designed to support parents in their role as the child's first and primary teacher. Services should begin during pregnancy and continue until school entry. Programs should provide personal contact for parents and address all aspects of school readiness: physical, emotional and mental health, language and literacy.
- We define a high quality ECEC system as one that constantly improves and evolves but retains the following standards...without compromise:
 - Accessible, affordable and culturally sensitive for all families in their local community
 - Meets recognized national standards of quality built upon a strong licensing foundation
 - Uses the best available research-based information and service models
 - Regularly receives, from local communities, feedback that is seriously considered by the system's governance.
- Michigan must adopt a unique brand identity for its ECEC services that is not subject to partisan change from election to election
- ECEC must be universally available with emphasis on targeted outreach and service for our most vulnerable children and families
- ECEC is a social benefit that must be universally available but voluntary for family use and permanently supported with dedicated state revenue
- ISDs are uniquely positioned and structured in Michigan to work in partnership with local school districts, health care, childcare, private providers, multi-purpose collaborative bodies, state and local agencies, faith-based organizations, early childhood organizations and families