



KANSAS EARLY LEARNING FORUM

Tuesday, October 8, 2019 • Hyatt Regency Wichita • Cypress A

- 9-9:30 a.m. **Welcome, Introductions and Overview of the Day**
Kansas Early Learning Caucus members will share purpose and goals for the day.
- 9:30-10 a.m. **What is Early Learning? And Who is NCSL?**
NCSL early care and education (ECE) staff will walk through an early learning overview – highlighting the who, what and why of ECE and its many components. And will highlight who NCSL is and how we support legislators and legislative staff.
Presenters: Alison May, NCSL
Jennifer Palmer, NCSL
- 10-11 a.m. **Early Brain Science and Brain Architecture**
More than 1 million new neural connections are formed every second in the first few years of a child’s life. This session will explore the latest research on early brain development and how everyday experiences support children’s learning and school readiness.
Presenter: Sarah Lytle, Institute for Learning & Brain Sciences
- 11 a.m.-Noon **The Economic Case for Investing in Early Childhood**
Hear an economist make the case for the monetary value of educating at-risk children. Research shows that high-quality early childhood education produces a significant return on investment. Learn how economists quantify the rate of return and what needs to be done to sustain the gains long-term.
Presenter: Benjamin Horowitz, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis
- Noon-12:45 p.m. **Networking Lunch**
- 12:45-1:15 p.m. **Federal Opportunities and Update**
This session will highlight federal funding including the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG); Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV); Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five Grant (PDG B-5); Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).
Presenter: Margaret Wile, NCSL Washington D.C. (via Skype)
- 1:15-2:30 p.m. **Strengthening Early Childhood in Kansas in 2019 and Beyond**
In 2019 Kansas has the opportunity and new federal grant funding to engage in a collaborative effort to shape our state’s future direction for early childhood. The Kansas Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund, the Kansas Department for Children and Families, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, the Kansas State Department of Education, and many other early childhood partners are carrying out this work together. State agencies will share how Kansas gathered information and the key findings of the

needs assessment. The session will also highlight what policymakers, communities, and the state can do to move early childhood in Kansas forward.

Presenters: Amanda Petersen, Kansas State Department of Education
Melissa Rooker, Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund

2:30-3 p.m.

Wrap up and Next Steps

www.ncsl.org/kansasearlylearning