



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

North Carolina Education Cabinet
Statement of Support
August 14, 2019

WHEREAS, North Carolina is recognized as a pioneer and national leader in supporting young children's healthy development beginning at birth with high quality, evidence-based early childhood programs and policies; and

WHEREAS, the first eight years of a child's life are a profound period of development that provide the foundation for a healthy future; and

WHEREAS, reading well in the early grades often predicts a child's long-term success in the classroom and beyond; and

WHEREAS, ensuring all children get a healthy and nurturing start will create the best outcomes in education, health and economic wellbeing for everyone in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Exec. Order No. 49, 33 N.C. Reg. 630-631 (October 1, 2018), issued on August 28, 2019, directs the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services to collaborate with the North Carolina Early Childhood Advisory Council to create the North Carolina Early Childhood Action Plan, which outlines measurable goals and strategies toward improving outcomes for young children across the state; and

WHEREAS, with the input of nearly 1,500 leaders and stakeholders, the North Carolina Early Childhood Action Plan was released in 2019, highlighting ten goals to improve child health, child welfare, and early learning outcomes by 2025; and

WHEREAS, to achieve these goals, we must collaborate across sectors and take bold, innovative actions at the local and state levels; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 116C-3, the North Carolina Education Cabinet is tasked with developing and maintaining a strategic design for the continuum of education programs across the state.

NOW, THEREFORE, the undersigned members of the North Carolina Education Cabinet do hereby:

- Endorse the goals, measures, and strategies outlined in the North Carolina Early Childhood Action Plan.
- Commit to pursuing policies and programs within their agencies and across North Carolina that will help achieve the goals.
- Commit to collaboratively tracking measures toward the goals, ensuring shared accountability toward making progress.

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Governor Roy Cooper
Chair, North Carolina Education Cabinet

Handwritten signature of Mandy Cohen in black ink.

Secretary Mandy Cohen
Department of Health and Human Services

Handwritten signature of Eric Davis in black ink.

Chairman Eric Davis
State Board of Education

Handwritten signature of Mark Johnson in black ink.

Superintendent Mark Johnson
Department of Public Instruction

Handwritten signature of Hope Williams in black ink.

President Hope Williams
NC Independent Colleges and Universities

Handwritten signature of Tony Copeland in black ink.

Secretary Tony Copeland
Department of Commerce

Handwritten signature of Peter Hans in black ink.

President Peter Hans
NC Community College System

Handwritten signature of William Roper in black ink.

President William Roper
University of North Carolina System