

Dear Early Childhood Partner:

As you are probably aware, one of the main components of Governor Snyder's education reform proposals the transformation of Michigan's Early Childhood Development System through the creation of the new Michigan Office of Great Start-Early Learning (OGS) within the Michigan Department of Education. This new office will bring together multiple early childhood programs and resources in a coordinated effort to maximize child outcomes, reduce duplication of services, and focus on quality improvement and service delivery. The Governor will be issuing an Executive Order to create the Office very soon.

To prepare for this new Office, I have accepted an offer from Early Childhood Investment Corporation (ECIC) CEO Judy Samelson for the temporary loan of ECIC VP for Great Start System Development and Evaluation, Joan Blough, to the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) to lead the transition process. Joan will work directly under Deputy Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer Sally Vaughn for the next six months to work through the changes brought about through the Executive Order.

On a separate note, I will be leading the process for selecting a permanent OGS leader. We have already received some partner input on the characteristics and qualifications needed for this new leader to help us shape the job description, and would welcome your thoughts, as well as your help in recruiting qualified candidates when the position is posted. If you have ideas for those characteristics or qualifications, please send them to Sally Vaughn at [vaughns1@michigan.gov](mailto:vaughns1@michigan.gov).

Finally, we are planning to convene a small group of partners to assist with screening applications and to participate on an interview team that will recommend two candidates to me for final selection sometime this fall. If you or someone you recommend would like to serve in either of these capacities, please share their contact information with my Special Assistant, Alisande Henry at [henrya@michigan.gov](mailto:henrya@michigan.gov). Please understand that we will make every effort to have all partner sectors represented in this process, however we may not be able to accommodate everyone who volunteers.

We are excited about this opportunity to better align and coordinate programs and services for Michigan's youngest children and their families and appreciate your input and assistance throughout the process. We have tried to share this with all of the relevant parties; we may have inadvertently missed someone so please feel free to share this with others if you think they will be interested.



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