

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 2000

H.P. 1395

House of Representatives, March 23, 1999

An Act to Establish the Position of Early Childhood Consultant.

Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative BAKER of Bangor.
Cosponsored by Senator CATHCART of Penobscot and
Representatives: DESMOND of Mapleton, GAGNE of Buckfield, JACOBS of Turner,
McKEE of Wayne, POWERS of Rockport, ROWE of Portland, SULLIVAN of Biddeford,
Senator: LONGLEY of Waldo.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

4 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA c. 203, sub-c. III is enacted to read:**

6 **SUBCHAPTER III**

8 **EARLY CHILDHOOD CONSULTANT**

10 **§4261. Early childhood consultant position**

12 1. Establishment. The position of early childhood
14 consultant is established within the department. A person
16 filling the position of early childhood consultant is referred to
18 in this subchapter as "consultant." The commissioner shall
20 supervise the consultant.

22 2. Qualifications. The consultant must have a bachelor's
24 degree in education in the specialty area of early childhood and
26 early elementary education and a minimum of 4 years of
28 professional-level experience in this area. The consultant must
30 have extensive knowledge of the research in early literacy and
32 language acquisition, brain development and early childhood
34 education. The consultant may be required to hold the
36 appropriate teaching or educational administration certificate
38 issued by the department.

40 **§4262. Duties**

42 The consultant shall provide statewide leadership,
44 consultation and direction for early childhood and early
46 elementary efforts and programs. The consultant shall:

48 1. Education initiatives. Promote and carry out key early
50 childhood and early elementary education initiatives;

2. Research. Keep informed of and disseminate current
research on early childhood literacy, symbolic development and
brain development as well as effective, exemplary education
practice to ensure the readiness of young students to meet
standards of achievement based on the statewide system of
learning results;

3. Optimum growth. Develop information, resources and
program models for local schools and school units to implement
innovative approaches at the preschool and primary grade levels
to support the optimum growth of young children;

4. Literacy achievement. Assist school systems with the
examination of literacy rates, recommend improvement strategies
and provide guidance to support literacy achievement;

2 5. Program planning. Provide technical assistance and
3 consultation in program planning, curriculum, instruction and
4 assessment linked to the statewide system of learning results for
5 school units serving children enrolled in early childhood public
6 school programs and children enrolled in kindergarten to grade 4;

7 6. Four-year-olds; public school program. Develop and
8 promote early childhood public school programs for children 4
9 years of age;

10 7. Quality early childhood practices. Provide staff
11 development and training in quality early childhood practices,
12 including High-Scope; screening and assessment; developmentally
13 appropriate practice; and parents as partners;

14 8. Student success. Create partnerships and networks
15 between and among schools, the other child-serving state
16 agencies, other institutions and community groups in order to
17 provide services that enhance student success;

18 9. Collaboration. Develop mechanisms and protocols for
19 collaboration with organizations and agencies that serve young
20 children; and

21 10. Policy and regulatory advice. Provide policy and
22 regulatory advice and assistance on early education issues,
23 including kindergarten screening, student eligibility and class
24 size.

30 SUMMARY

31 This bill establishes the position of early childhood
32 consultant within the Department of Education. The early
33 childhood consultant shall provide statewide leadership,
34 consultation and direction for early childhood and early
35 elementary efforts and programs.
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