

5-year action agenda for achieving school readiness, presented to the Subcabinet for Children, Youth, and Families by the Leadership in Action Program; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article - Education

SUBTITLE 6. EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATIONAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMS.
8-601.

(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE, "EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATIONAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAM" INCLUDES:

- (1) HEAD START PROGRAMS;
- (2) JUDY CENTERS;
- (3) PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS;
- (4) EARLY HEAD START PROGRAMS; AND
- (5) CHILD CARE CENTERS.

(B) EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATIONAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMS IN THE STATE, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE CHILD CARE RESOURCE AND REFERRAL NETWORK, MAY ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT TO PROMOTE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATIONAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMS.

(C) THE PURPOSE OF THE AGREEMENT IS TO BRING TOGETHER EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATIONAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMS IN THE STATE TO COLLABORATE AND DEVELOP A PLAN TO PROVIDE INFORMATION TO A PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF INDIGENT OR AT-RISK CHILDREN REGARDING:

- (1) THE IMPORTANCE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION;
- (2) THE AVAILABILITY OF SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE MARYLAND CHILD CARE RESOURCE ~~AND REFERRAL~~ NETWORK;
- (3) THE AVAILABILITY OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR YOUNG CHILDREN AND CHILDREN WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES;
- (4) THE AVAILABILITY OF EARLY CHILDHOOD AND PRENATAL HEALTH SCREENING;
- (5) THE AVAILABILITY OF FAMILY AND HOME-BASED SUPPORTS, EDUCATION ON PRENATAL CARE, AND PARENTAL EDUCATION; AND
- (6) THE AVAILABILITY OF SCHOOL BREAKFAST AND LUNCH PROGRAMS.

8-602.

THE DEPARTMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE CHILD CARE ADMINISTRATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES, SHALL: