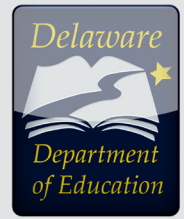


# 2019 Community Conversations Report



## YEAR 2 HIGHLIGHTS

Early learning professionals and community members throughout the state participated in **Early Learning Community Conversations** at eight meetings over two weeks in May.

An increase in the number of participating child care providers and an 80% increase in overall participation resulted in more varied and thought-provoking discussions.

WHO ATTENDED?

2018



103 PARTICIPANTS



CHILD CARE PROVIDERS



STATE AGENCY CONTRACTORS



NONPROFIT/COMMUNITY PARTNERS

2019



185 PARTICIPANTS



CHILD CARE PROVIDERS



STATE AGENCY CONTRACTORS



NONPROFIT/COMMUNITY PARTNERS

The goal of **Community Conversations** is to engage together around common issues in the pursuit of high quality early education.

## 2019 UPDATES

OFFICE OF EARLY LEARNING

OFFICE OF CHILD CARE LICENSING

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF PREVENTION AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

**Community Conversations** offer an opportunity for open dialog among early childhood professionals and Delaware early learning support agencies.

DELAWARE STARS REDESIGN

PROFESSIONAL/WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

OFFICE OF CHILD CARE LICENSING REGULATIONS

PURCHASE OF CARE/MARKET RATES CHANGES

EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTATION SERVICES

## **POSITIVE FEEDBACK**

**The Office of Early Learning** supports my program in providing the best care for children.

**Purchase of Care** provides subsidies to help children attend high quality care & education programs.

**The Office of Child Care Licensing** provides guidelines for children's health and safety.

**Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation** provides hands-on assistance and training for teachers, children and families managing behavior issues.

## **PROGRESS**

The Department of Education and its partners will continue to listen, take action and promote work that will streamline, improve and expand services for young children.

**In the next year, we will work together to:**

- ✓ Review the **governance** structure of early learning in Delaware
- ✓ Work to **strengthen early learning agency communications**
- ✓ Identify ways to **recruit and retain quality early learning staff**

- ✓ **Redesign Delaware Stars** to ensure all children have access to high-quality early learning opportunities
- ✓ Explore the expansion of **appropriate mental health consultation services** for young children

## **TO LEARN MORE AND STAY INFORMED**

A comprehensive list of early learning programs and initiatives may be found at [www.doe.k12.de.us/resources](http://www.doe.k12.de.us/resources)

### **Early Childhood Program Grants**

Grant Watch: [www.grantwatch.com/cat/26/preschool-grants.html](http://www.grantwatch.com/cat/26/preschool-grants.html)

Child Care Lounge: [www.childcarelounge.com/pages/grants-for-early-childhood-education](http://www.childcarelounge.com/pages/grants-for-early-childhood-education)

### **Connecting with Delaware Libraries**

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## **THANK YOU!**

The Office of Early Learning and its partners express their appreciation for everyone's involvement in the informative **2019 Community Conversations**. Your feedback, discussion and questions are extremely valuable as we continue to improve and expand services for Delaware's youngest learners.