What Reduction of Expulsion and Suspension in Early Childhood Programs in Pennsylvania Means for Children with ASD

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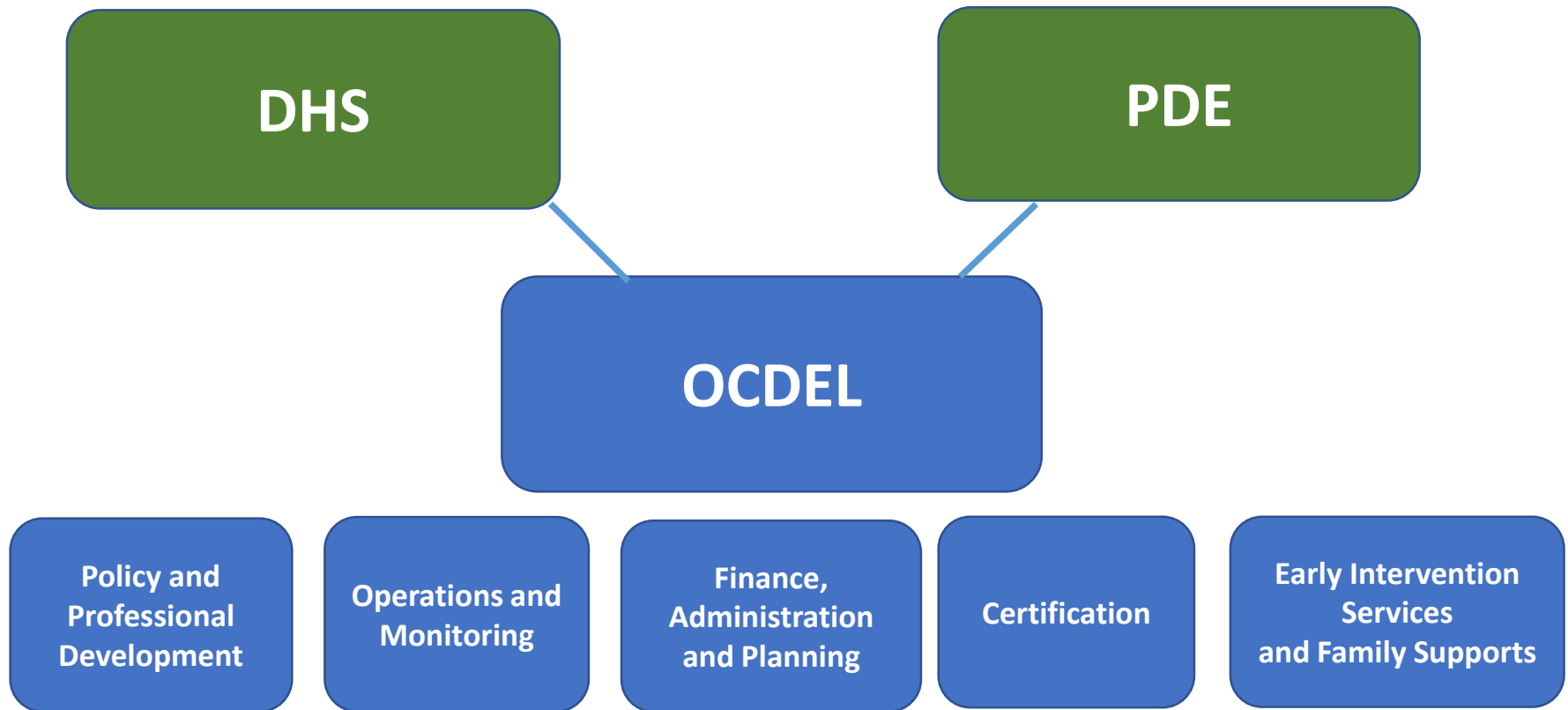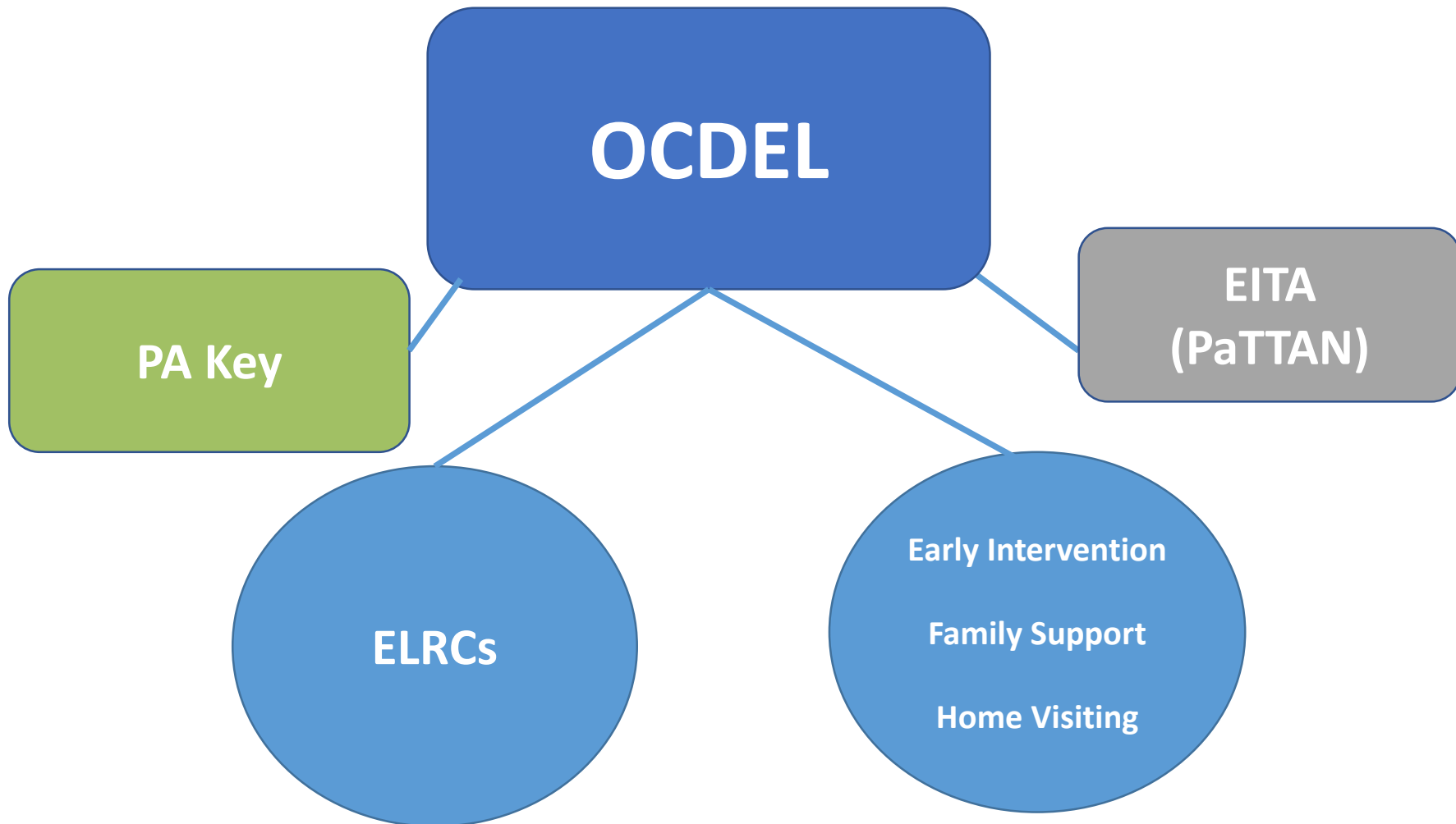**Early Intervention Technical Assistance**

Preschool expulsions and suspensions are **not child behaviors**; they are **adult decisions** based in part on **teachers' feelings** about whether the **resources and supports** available to them **are adequate** to meet the needs of children with challenging behaviors.

Gilliam, Walter S., Early Childhood Expulsions and Suspensions Undermine Our Nation's Most Promising Agent of Opportunity and Social Justice, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, 2016, p. 4

Tom Wolf, Governor
Pedro A. Rivera, Secretary of Education | Teresa D. Miller, Secretary of Human Services

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Understanding OCDEL's Structure

Understanding OCDEL's Structure

OCDEL

PA Key

EITA (PaTTAN)

ELRCs

Early Intervention

Family Support

Home Visiting

OCDEL Announcement

http://www.pakeys.org/pa-early-learning-initiatives/promoting-inclusion-reducing-expulsion-and-suspension/

OCDEL has issued two policy statements to support effective inclusion. They have also made available supporting documents.

Policy Statement: Inclusion of All Children in Early Childhood Programs (PDF)

Policy Statement: Reduction of Suspension and Expulsion in Early Childhood Programs (PDF)

OCDEL Inclusion and Suspension Expulsion Timeline (PDF)

Getting Started Implementing the OCDEL Inclusion Announcement (PDF)

Guidelines to Support Implementation of OCDEL Announcement on Inclusion: A Resource for Administrators and Coaches (PDF)

Developing Suspension and Expulsion Policies (PDF)

Guidelines to Support Implementation of OCDEL Announcement on Suspension and Expulsion: Developing Policy (PDF)

OCDEL Announcement

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ANNOUNCEMENT

Subsidized Child Care Services - S-17 #05
Child Care Certification Services- C-17#04
Early Intervention Services -   EI-17#02
                                 FC/PRF- 17#03

Early Learning Services –   KS-17#04
                                 ELS-17#03

Issue Date: June 29, 2017
Effective Date: July 1, 2017

SUBJECT: Reduction of Expulsion and Suspension in Early Childhood Programs in Pennsylvania
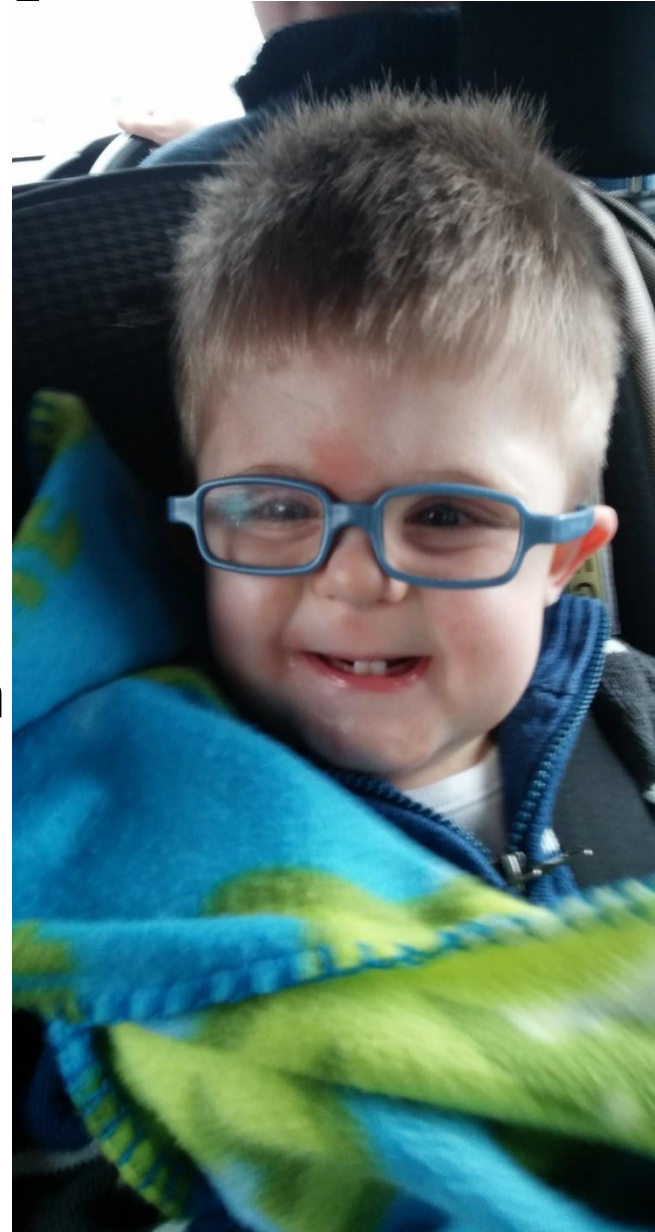
TO: Pennsylvania Early Learning Programs

FROM: Suzann L. Morris, MPA
Deputy Secretary, Office of Child Development & Early Learning

PURPOSE:

The U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Education (ED) released a policy statement+ recommending that states develop policies and practices to significantly limit the practice of expulsion and suspension of young children in all early childhood programs (2014). This announcement provides the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) response to the HHS & ED federal policy.

Explore the Announcement

- Which early learning programs are impacted by this announcement?

- What questions do you have about the definitions of expulsion and suspension?

- What action will OCDEL take if a program chooses to expel or suspend a child?

- Who can help a program that doesn't know how to support a child?

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This guidance document supports Pennsylvania's Office of Child Development and Early Learning's (OCDEL) *Announcement regarding the Reduction of Expulsion and Suspension in Early Childhood Programs in Pennsylvania*. The following Federal and Pennsylvania offices have created program policies applicable to any and all of their programming:

- OCDEL, which administers Child Care Works, Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts (PKC), Pennsylvania's Head Start Supplemental Assistance Program (HSSAP), provides Early Intervention Service (EI) Services, and manages Keystone STARS;
- The U.S. Departments of Health & Human Services and Education, which administer The Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act;
- The Federal Offices of Head Start and Child Care

These agencies have come together to support the children we serve. It is vital to have a collaborative, coordinated, and responsive system. It must be one in which we work together to create supports for children, and the adults in their lives. When we do this, we prevent, and reduce the use of exclusionary discipline practices regardless of the funding source supporting a child's attendance in an early learning program.

In July 2017, all Pennsylvania early learning programs were informed of the need to develop program specific policies to prevent, and support the reduction of the suspension and expulsion of young children from their programs. A key part of maintaining a child's enrollment in any early learning setting is supporting the promotion the child's social-emotional health using evidence-based practices such as: quality coaching for teachers, positive behavioral intervention and support (PBIS) models, and infant and early childhood mental health consultation (ECMH). Starting in July 2018, early learning programs can expect their Keystone STARS administrator, PKC Program Specialist, and/or HSSAP Program Specialist to begin asking to see a copy of the policy during annual review. A copy of the policy must also be made available to Certification Representatives during annual inspection.

Expulsions and suspensions are not child behaviors; they are adult decisions.
– Dr. Walter Gilliam

Inclusion Announcement

Guidelines

to Support Implementation of

OCDEL Announcement on Inclusion

A Resource for Administrators and Coaches

Tom Wolf, Governor
Pedro A. Rivera, Secretary of Education | Teresa D. Miller, Secretary of Human Ser

Role of EI in Supporting Family and Program

Refer to pages 5 & 6 of Suspension Announcement:

Family Members: Find two ways you could request help for your child or his/her caregiver

Service Providers: Find two possible support strategies you might provide to programs or families

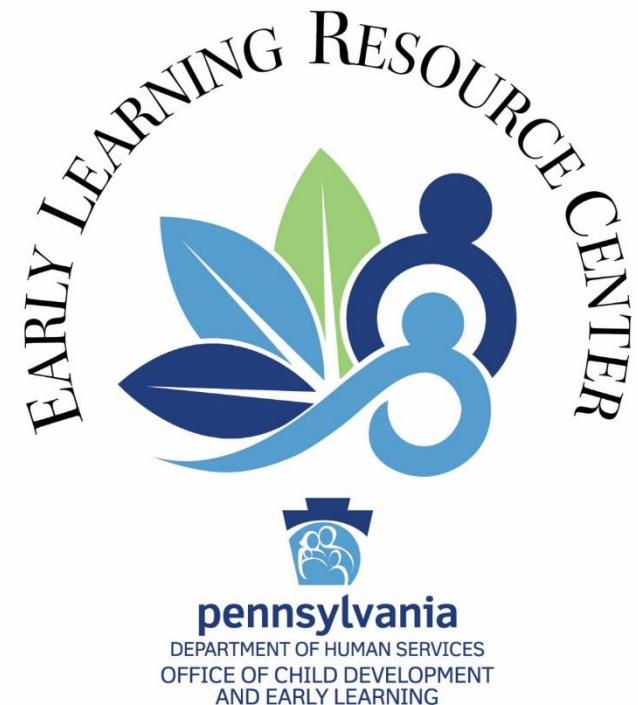# Role of ELRC in Supporting Family and Program

What is an Early Learning Resource Center

An OCDEL funded regional partner charged with implementing provider quality supports and family access through the Keystone STARS and Child Care Works programs.

Who is a partner of the ELRCs?

- Children and Families

- Child Care Providers

- Community Partners

  - Head Start
  - Early Intervention
  - Higher Education
  - Family Support
  - Home Visiting
  - Early Childhood Advocacy Organizations

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How does the ELRCs system work?

ELRCs

- Help families identify the best child care for their child(ren)

- Offer families connections to additional services

- Support child care programs in building quality outcomes for children

Child Care Providers

- Work with Quality Coaches to achieve STAR 3 and 4

- Build connections with community partners through the ELRCs

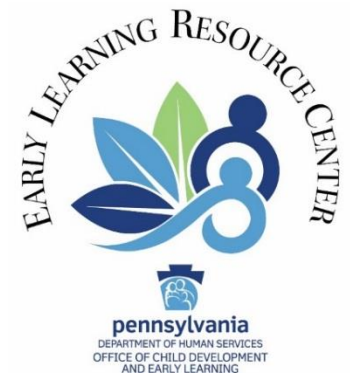- Support children and families in accessing additional services
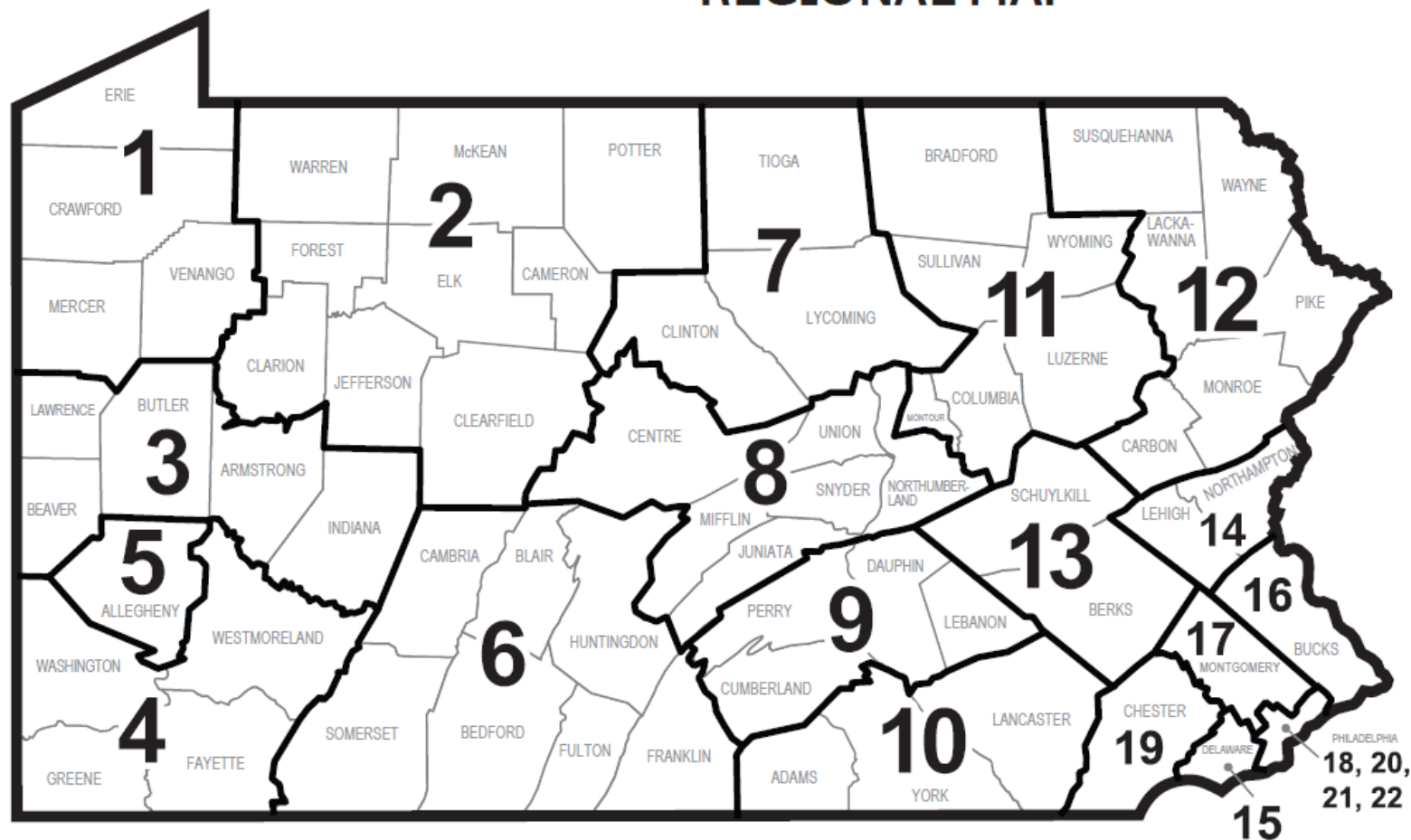
Families

- Choose their Child Care provider

- Access additional early learning services

- Build connections with community partners through the ELRCS

What are the goals of the ELRCs?

- Access to high-quality child care for all families

- Access to education, career pathways and a responsive coaching system for all early care and learning professionals

- Equitably distributed resources to families and providers

- Continuous quality improvement, feedback loops, and system evaluation

- Sustainable funding

- Programs and policies that address bias

EARLY LEARNING RESOURCE CENTERS REGIONAL MAP

EARLY LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER
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1 • Northwest Institute for Research
2 • Clearfield County League on Social Services, Inc.
3 • Butler County Children's Center
4 • Westmoreland Child Care Information Services, Inc.
6 • Center for Community Action
7 • Lycoming-Clinton Commission for Community Action, (STEP) Inc.
8 • Child Development and Family Council of Centre County
9 • Child Care Consultants, Inc.
10 • Child Care Consultants, Inc.
11 • Community Services for Children, Inc.
12 • Community Services for Children, Inc.
13 • Community Services for Children, Inc.

14 • Community Services for Children, Inc.
15 • County of Delaware
16 • Community Services for Children, Inc.
17 • County of Montgomery
18 • Philadelphia Parent Child Center, Inc. (North – CCIS)
19 • Public Health Management Corporation
20 • Federation Daycare Services (Northeast – CCIS)
21 • Urban League of Philadelphia (Northwest – CCIS)
22 • Caring People Alliance (South and West – CCIS)

18, 20, 21, and 22 • Public Health Management Corporation (Keystone STARS)

Resources

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How to get in touch with us?

OCDEL DHS/PDE

http://mydhs/ocd/about/index.htm

http://www.education.pa.gov/Early%20Learning/Pages/default.aspx

EITA

http://www.eita-pa.org/

PA Key

http://www.pakeys.org/

https://www.papromiseforchildren.org/

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How to Stay Current with OCDEL Info

PA Early Ed News

PA Key website

Upcoming webinars

Quality coaches

How to get in touch with us?

http://mydhs/ocd/about/index.htm

http://www.eita-pa.org/

http://www.pakeys.org/

http://www.education.pa.gov/Early%20Learning/Pages/default.aspx

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Questions?

Thank You