

**Memorandum of Agreement
Between
The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services
and
The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education**

1. Purpose

- 1.1 As required by the Health Resources and Services Administration Grant, known as the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Grant Program; the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) and the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) enter into this Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to collaborate in programs and activities to improve maternal, infant, and child health outcomes.

2. Background

- 2.1 DHSS oversees and manages the federally funded MIECHV Grant Program in addition to evidence-based home visiting services implemented through contracted agencies funded through the Title V Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant. These federal grants fully fund the DHSS Early Childhood Home Visiting Program. DHSS implements voluntary, evidence-based early childhood home visiting services by entering into contracts with local implementing agencies (LIAs). The home visiting services provided by contracted LIAs include but are not limited to: referrals, screenings, follow-up, and service coordination to address the needs of eligible, low-income (185% of Federal Poverty Level or lower) pregnant women and primary care givers with children birth to kindergarten entry.
- 2.2 DHSS coordinates the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) State Steering Committee, in which stakeholders work to improve early childhood outcomes through early childhood systems building and planning and implementation of the DHSS' MIECHV Program, including the activities listed in paragraph 2.1. DESE is a member of the Steering Committee.
- 2.3 DESE serves as Missouri's lead agency for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part C, otherwise known as the First Steps program. First Steps provides early intervention services to families with children from birth to age 3 who have delayed development or diagnosed conditions that are associated with developmental delays. DESE additionally serves as the lead agency for IDEA Part B Section 619 (Early Childhood Special Education), which provides special education services for children age three to kindergarten entry.
- 2.4 First Steps facilitates the State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC), which provides coordination to identify program supports and services for children eligible for the First Steps program.

3. Responsibilities of the Parties

- 3.1 DESE agrees to:

- a. Continue to participate in the ECCS State Steering Committee to assist in the planning and implementation of the MIECHV Program;
- b. Advise SICC members of DHSS Early Childhood Home Visiting Program services and encourage referrals to agencies contracted with DHSS to implement early childhood home visiting services, when appropriate;
- c. Advise First Steps program staff of DHSS Early Childhood Home Visiting Program services and encourage referrals to agencies contracted with DHSS to implement early childhood home visiting services, when appropriate;
- d. Provide information on the First Steps program or Early Childhood Special Education, upon the request of agencies implementing DHSS Early Childhood Home Visiting Program services, to support referrals of children who are suspected of having a developmental delay or diagnosed conditions that are associated with developmental delays; and
- e. Provide coordination and consultation on available services (i.e., screening, referral, service coordination) between DESE programs, including but not limited to IDEA Part C (First Steps), Elementary and Secondary Education Act Title 1, and IDEA Part B Section 619 (Early Childhood Special Education), and the DHSS Early Childhood Home Visiting Program.

3.2 DHSS agrees to:

- a. Lead and facilitate the ECCS State Steering Committee;
- b. Attend the SICC meetings to provide information on DHSS Early Childhood Home Visiting Program services and support the coordination of services and assistance to young children with special needs and their families; and
- c. Advise agencies contracting with the DHSS Early Childhood Home Visiting Program about the First Steps and Early Childhood Special Education programs and encourage referrals of children suspected of having a developmental delay or diagnosed conditions that are associated with developmental delays; and
- d. Continue to participate as a member in the SICC.

4. Confidentiality

- 4.1 All parties agree to maintain confidential information within applicable state and federal laws.
- 4.2 If required, each party and any required personnel of each party must sign specific documents regarding confidentiality, security, or other similar documents.

5. Term of MOA/Modifications

- 5.1 This MOA shall be effective on the date of the final signature and shall remain in effect for three (3) years. This MOA may be renewed for two (2) additional three year periods by the written agreement of both parties.
- 5.2 Any changes to this MOA must be by formal amendment reviewed, approved, and signed by both parties. No other documents, including correspondence, acts, and oral communications by or from any person, shall be construed as an amendment to the MOA.
- 5.3 Either party may terminate this MOA after providing a minimum of sixty (60) days' written notice to the other party.



In witness thereof, the parties below hereby execute this MOA.

Margie Vandeven, Commissioner, Date
Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Marcia Mahaney, Director Date
Division of Administration
Department of Health and Senior Services

Signatures