



Advancing quality early care
and education in Bucks, Chester,
Delaware, Montgomery and
Philadelphia Counties

SEPECC

What is the Southeastern Pennsylvania Early Childhood Coalition (SEPECC)?

SEPECC serves as an umbrella of organizations supporting the mission of providing high quality early childhood services to all families in Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia Counties. It represents child care centers, family child care programs, advocacy groups, training agencies, early care support agencies and funders who share the goal of coordinating and increasing public support for early care and education. Volunteers from the early childhood community, with organizational support from First Up, provide leadership for the Coalition.

Why do we need a regional child care coalition?

Almost 185,000 children from birth to age 5 in our region spend at least part of their day in care outside their home. Those who advocate for child care, Pre-K, early intervention, home visiting and other child and family services have much in common. Working together gives us a voice and more impact than we could have separately.

Why should you join the Coalition today?

In addition to networking with other child care advocates and staying informed, having a voice in child care policy will be critical in the coming years. With growing state and federal deficits – along with legislators' unwillingness to find additional revenues – we must work together to advocate for budgets that maintain early childhood education in this region, and prevent cuts to core programs that could affect the next generation of young children.

Mission:

To ensure that children and families in Southeast Pennsylvania have access to high quality, affordable and well-resourced early education programs.



Objectives

- Build unity to create one strong and amplified voice for promoting public policy and advocacy at the local, state, and national levels.
- Develop a broad and inclusive local network of early care and education stakeholders.
- Provide a forum to share information, identify issues and develop policy about city, regional, state and national issues affecting early care and education.
- Educate the public about the need for quality early care and education.
- Integrate the knowledge, interests and expertise of organizations that support and deliver early care and education services in the region.



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 **First Up**

Champions for Early Education



What is SEPECC's reach?

While Philadelphia claims a significant share of the Coalition's attention, the goal is to fully represent the five-county region. SEPECC supports collaborative efforts in the Counties, to increase our social media presence, and to strengthen our regional voice.

Recent Activities

SEPECC served as a lifeline for the ECE community during the Pandemic, keeping providers updated, informed and connected on a weekly basis through those challenging times. The Coalition continues to advocate to increase state funding for high quality early learning through Head Start and Pre-K Counts, and to improve the child care subsidy and Keystone STARS systems. Members have organized activities to educate local, state and federal policymakers and administrators about early childhood care and learning issues. The Coalition has developed advocacy training toolkits and templates to use for engaging with legislators, families, colleagues and the greater community.

Top 3 Advocacy Goals

- Increasing wages & benefits for ECE professionals (pay parity with K-3)
- Being at local, state, & federal tables to have a voice in how funds for child care and Pre-K are allocated
- Meeting with legislators to ensure they understand the issues and needs of ECE programs and professionals and the families they serve

To Join SEPECC

Click here <https://forms.gle/1QPhiqDgKrQBj5U36> or, scan QR code below

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is free and open to any individual or agency that provides child care or early education services, including family, group or center-based child care programs, Head Start, early intervention or school age programs, and to agencies or organizations that work with, support or advocate for early care and education.



To register for upcoming meetings and materials from previous meetings, visit <https://www.firstup.org/sepecc/> or for more information, contact jackie.groetsch@firstup.org.