

School Readiness: National Education Goals Panel Definition and the Essential and Coordinated Elements

The following elements of the First 5 School Readiness Program were adapted from the National Education Goals Panel (NEGP) definition of School Readiness:

- a. Children's readiness for school
 - Physical well-being and motor development
 - Social and emotional development
 - Approaches to learning
 - Language development
 - Cognition and general knowledge
- b. Schools' readiness for children
- c. Family and community supports and services that contribute to children's readiness for school success

Essential and Coordinated Elements

Each School Readiness program must include, or link with, the following **Essential and Coordinated Elements** that support and align with the National Education Goals Panel's three components of school readiness. The mix of services and supports within each element needs to be coordinated and/or developed by county commissions and their partners, including families, schools and communities, to better deliver needed services and supports while building on the resources/assets of each community. All services and supports must be culturally and linguistically appropriate and sensitive to the needs of diverse populations including children with disabilities and other special needs.

CHILDREN'S READINESS FOR SCHOOL

1) Parenting/Family Support

Includes services such as family literacy and language acquisition, especially for non-native speakers; parent education, home visitation, employment development and family court services. Activities related to this element will be included in Result Area: **Improved Family Functioning**.

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SUPPORTS AND SERVICES

2) Early Care and Education (ECE)

Includes practices that focus on school readiness goals for children such as ECE services, improved access to high quality ECE through referrals, information and outreach to parents and providers using practices that are culturally and linguistically appropriate, and addresses the needs of children with disabilities and improved

implementation of effective practices through training for all types of ECE providers. Activities related to this element will be included in Result Area: **Improved Child Development**

CHILDREN'S READINESS FOR SCHOOL

3) Health and Social Services

Includes outreach services such as health plan enrollment, provision of and/or referral to basic health care including prenatal care and services for children with disabilities and other special needs, comprehensive screening and assessment, mental health counseling, nutrition services, oral health services, drug and alcohol counseling, child abuse prevention and intervention and case management.

Activities related to this element will be included in Result Area: **Improved Health.**

SCHOOLS' READINESS FOR CHILDREN

4) School Capacity

Includes communication of Kindergarten standards, schools' outreach to parents of children birth to 5, early care and education and Kindergarten transition programs, language development, cross-training and shared curriculum and planning for early childhood educators/care providers and early elementary teachers, and seamless provision of health, social services, after-school programs, and other supports for children and families. Activities related to this element will be included in Result Area: **Improved Systems of Care.**

5) Infrastructure, Administration and Evaluation

Includes long-term family involvement/leadership development, program/district/county coordination, administrative support, training and professional development, and transportation. Also includes program evaluation, fiscal accountability, and collaborative governance (including families and community members). Activities related to this element will be included in Result Area: **Improved Systems of Care**