Working Document - Healthi Kids 2023 – 2024 Legislative Agenda

Healthi Kids 2023-2024 New York State Legislative Agenda seeks to advance whole child health in Rochester and the Finger Lakes region. Working in partnership with parents, local partners, and statewide coalitions we are driving new policies, systems, and environmental changes to ensure every child has equitable access to the best and healthiest start in life.

Our 2023-2024 Legislative Agenda has several overarching goals:

- Position the Healthi Kids Coalition staff and members as key actors to advancing whole child health in each of our portfolios of work;
- Partner with parents, caregivers, and students to drive policy change at the state level;
- Advance health equity for kids 0-8 in Rochester and the Finger Lakes region;
- Facilitate cross-agency alignment and coordination among state agencies (e.g. NYSED, DOH, OMH, OCFS, and CCF)[1] and local partners to build continuity within child-serving systems.

Building Foundations in Early Childhood	Equitable Communities	Healthy Learning Environments	Power of Play
• Sustainable funding and expanded integration of infant and early childhood mental health (IECMH) consultation in early care and education (ECE), pediatrics, and other settings • Funding or PD requirements to support IECMH training and reflective supervision/consultation for professionals who work with or on behalf of kids birth to 5 and their families • Establish a Speech Language Pathology Assistant licensure • Increase Early Intervention (EI) reimbursement rates by 11% • Reimbursement rate methodology study for EI providers • Loan forgiveness program for EI providers • Increase investment in Healthy Steps pediatric programs across the state • Medicaid reimbursement for preventative, parent-child dyadic services in integrated care settings • Fatherhood engagement initiatives in early childhood programs and spaces • Supportive policies and equitable reimbursement for community-based birth and postpartum doula care	• Lower the residential speed limit • Funding for complete streets infrastructure • Good Food Bill that would lift barriers for municipalities to procure food • Reimbursement and/or funding for Food is Medicine interventions	• Advance funding for high quality out of school time programs • Remove regulatory barriers for out of school time and early care and education (ECE) to provide high quality care • Healthy school meals for all students in NYS • Funding for farm to school • Advance the community schools model across the state • Eliminate suspension/expulsion in ECE settings and support implementation of Pyramid Model and IECMH consultation in ECE classrooms • Funding for special needs supports in ECE classrooms • Funding for accessible and high-quality infant care in ECE programs	• Explore the creation of a statewide recess policy • Advocate for the adoption of playful learning models across the state • Increased funding for parks and trails

[1] New York State Education Department, Department of Health, Office of Mental Health, Office of Child and Family Services, Council on Children and Families

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Healthi Kids staff currently is a member in the following statewide coalitions / member organizations:

- New York Grown for New York Kids (farm to school)
- Network for Youth Success (out of school time)
- Healthy School Meals for All
- New York State Community Schools Network
- New York Thruway Coalition (community schools)
- Good Food Purchasing Coalition
- Food is Medicine Coalition
- Safe Streets for All Coalition
- Kids Can't Wait (Early Intervention)
- New York Coalition for Doula Access
- New York State Association for Infant Mental Health
- Early Care and Learning Council
- Parks and Trails New York