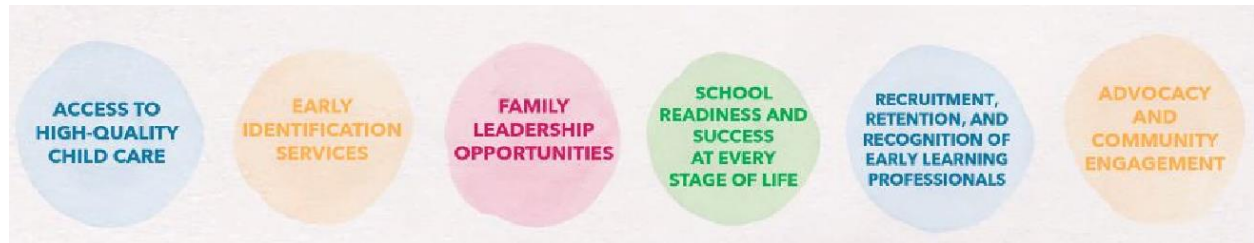




The West Central Mountains Early Learning Collaborative has been working in partnership with the Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children (Idaho AEYC) to build systems around early education and supports for young families. This work can be categorized in six different buckets (see below).



Despite the constraints of Idaho DOE funding for preschool, Idaho school districts are increasingly working to be more active in early education. This is in part due to recognition that many challenges in K-12 education can be addressed with success before students enter kindergarten. These benefits include:

- Advanced language, reading, writing and math skills
- Positive impacts in social-emotional regulation and executive functioning
- Reductions in Special Education placement and grade retention
- Greatest benefits are incurred from those most in need such as low-income families
- Reduced high school disciplinary measures

The McCall-Donnelly School District is doing a commendable job recognizing the importance of early education. In the past few years, the district has added space to increase access to high-quality childcare. Barbara Morgan and Donnelly Elementary also host the Ready for Kindergarten workshops designed to empower parents with young children to assist their children in guiding their children's early education.

Looking forward, there are many ways the school district can strengthen families with young children. We encourage the school district to strengthen kindergarten transition. This could include:

- Increased collaboration with the elementary teams in our early learning centers to align learning objectives and expectations
- Partnering with the Early Learning Collaborative to host Parents Cafes
- Allotting levy funds to support our youngest learners

We thank the MDSD for its continuing commitment to excellence in education.