

EARLY EDUCATION COMMISSION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The United Way Early Education Commission is comprised of a group of civic leaders from Atlanta. Its focus is to investigate the impact of early learning on the short- and long-term economic development of the metro Atlanta area. The Commission will explore and analyze the current state of metro Atlanta to identify areas in which specific changes can be made to improve early learning, and offer concrete action recommendations.

Who serves on the Early Education Commission?

The EEC includes a group of prominent Atlanta business and civic leaders representing diverse constituencies. The Commission is co-chaired by Dennis Lockhart, president and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, and Dr. Beverly Tatum, president of Spelman College.

What is the purpose of the Early Education Commission?

Over the next two years, the EEC will assess the current state of early education in metro Atlanta to identify areas in which specific changes can be made to improve the early learning landscape. They will then put forth specific recommendations about how early education can be improved.

Who will implement the directives of the Early Education Commission?

Smart Start, the early childhood division of United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta, and other key stakeholders will implement the Commission's recommendations.

What is United Way's vision for young children in metro Atlanta?

United Way works to ensure that children achieve their full potential. All children birth–five have the right to be ready to succeed when they enter kindergarten. United Way supports and implements programs that improve the quality of early care and education to ensure children are ready when they start school.

What are United Way's key priorities around early learning?

- Ensure more opportunities for at-risk children to have access to high-quality early learning environments
- Enhance the early literacy and pre-reading development of young children
- Identify and promote best practices through training and technical assistance for child care providers
- Support parents as a child's first and most important teacher, so parents have the knowledge and skills, as well as information and resources, needed to make the best early learning choices for their families
- Demonstrate importance of early learning to the short- and long-term economic growth of our region