

**PRESENTATION TO THE NEBRASKA COUNCIL ON TEACHER EDUCATION**

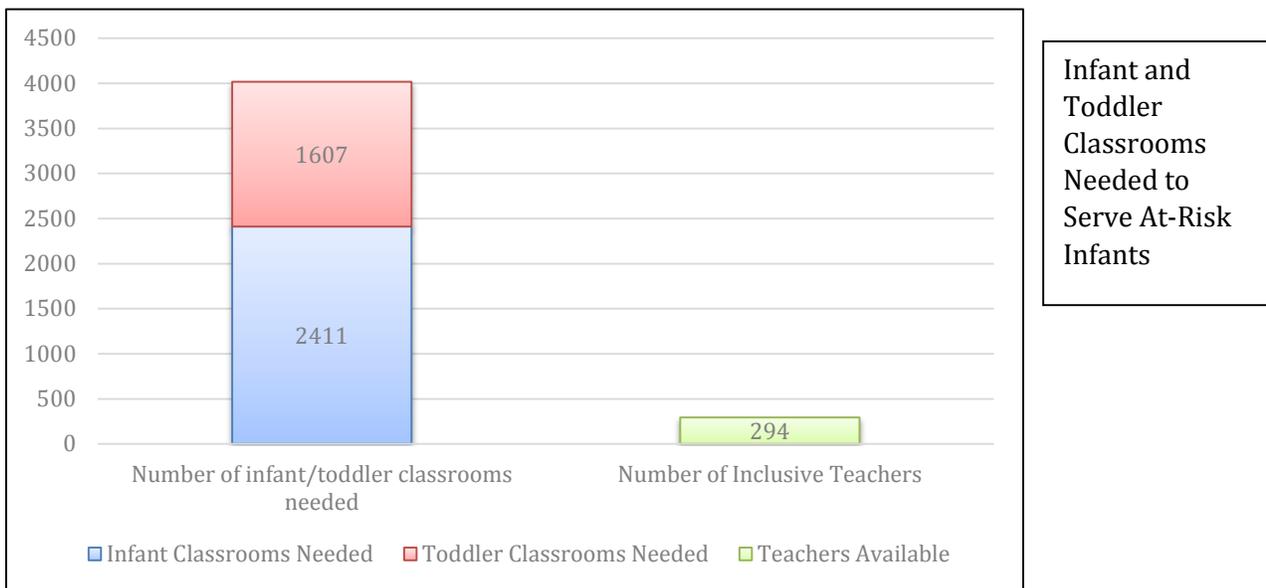
March 20, 2015

Facts about at-risk infants and toddlers:

- There are more than 64,000 children birth through age 5 at risk in Nebraska; approximately 32,000 of these children are between birth and age 3.
- 6% of infants are in settings with documented high quality standards
- 7% of toddlers are in settings with documented high quality standards
- 65% of infants and toddlers have both parents working outside the

In order to serve these at-risk infants and toddlers, more than 4,000 high-quality classrooms are needed. Many infants and toddlers are in current early childhood settings, but quality of the settings is unknown, and there are no documented standards for quality.

High quality teachers are the key to high quality classrooms. Nebraska Department of Education (via Rule 11) currently considers the Unified/Inclusive Early Childhood Endorsement to be the appropriate certification requirement for infant/toddler teachers (see attachment, Crosswalk of Early Childhood-Related Endorsements). However, the number of these teachers is dramatically lower than the needs of the field. From 2009-13, there were 294 Unified endorsement graduates. A recent survey of teachers with the Unified endorsement found that only approximately 35% worked in prekindergarten settings.



The Buffett Early Childhood Institute, in partnership with IHEs, NDE, administrators, and others, has been exploring both short-and long-term solutions to the early childhood workforce issue. We would like to continue working with members of NCTE to brainstorm successful solutions to this problem.

Some initial ideas we are considering to address early childhood workforce needs include:

- Changes to Rule 21 to allow provisional permits for individuals with an AAS in early childhood education; would include requirements that a written plan from an IHE for progress towards certification exist, mentoring from school district be guaranteed, and BA to be completed within 4 years (non-renewable permit)
- Changes to Rule 21 to allow provisional permits for individuals with a BA/BS in a closely related fields
- Changes to Rule 24 to include a new inclusive endorsement for children 0-5
- Credential/Standards developed through HHS to establish high quality standards for infant/toddler teachers (this would require a change to Rule 11 to accept the credential for programs funded by the Early Childhood Endowment Fund)

For more information about the Buffett Early Childhood Institute’s Early Childhood Workforce Development Program, please contact Susan Sarver, Ph.D., Director of Workforce Planning and Development at [ssarver@nebraska.edu](mailto:ssarver@nebraska.edu) or (402) 554-3762.

Data from table are based on the report, *The Youngest Nebraskans: A Statistical Look at Infants and Toddlers in Nebraska, February 2015*. Only 65% of total at-risk infant/toddlers were used in estimates (based on parental working patterns) and 6% and 7% of infants and toddlers respectively were subtracted from total (those currently in high quality care). Estimates for classrooms are based on a ratio of 1:4 for infants and 1:6 for toddlers.



**CROSSWALK of Early Childhood-Related Endorsements**

ENDORSEMENT	QUALIFIED TO TEACH	REIMBURSEMENT UNDER NDE RULE 51/52 and NDE RULES 10 and 11
<p>Early Childhood Inclusive, Birth-Grade 3 (formerly Early Childhood Education Unified)</p>	<p>All children, Birth through Grade 3, in all settings EXCEPT self-contained Special Education, K-3</p>	<p><u>Rules 51/52:</u> Yes, Birth through Grade 3, all settings EXCEPT self-contained Special Education, K-3. (K-3 self-contained Special Education requires a K-6 Special Education endorsement for reimbursement.)  <u>Rule 11:</u> Yes ( Birth to Kindergarten)  <u>Rule 10:</u> Yes - Kindergarten through Third Grade</p>
<p>Early Childhood Education, PK-Grade 3 (supplemental only to Elementary Education K-6)</p>	<p>All children, Age 3 through Grade 3, in all settings EXCEPT self-contained Special Education, K-3</p>	<p><u>Rules 51:</u> Only if the individual also holds any special education endorsement which includes any age/grade levels. Endorsement does not qualify an individual for self-contained Special Education, K-3.  <u>Rule 11:</u> Yes- All settings-<del>birth</del> <u>age 3</u> to Kindergarten  <u>Rule 10:</u> Yes - Kindergarten through grade 3</p>
<p>Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE), Birth through Kindergarten</p>	<p>All children, Birth through Kindergarten EXCEPT cannot be Kindergarten classroom teacher of record</p>	<p><u>Rules 51/52:</u> Yes for Birth through Kindergarten EXCEPT Kindergarten classroom teacher of record.  <u>Rule 11:</u> Yes for Birth to Kindergarten  <u>Rule 10:</u> Kindergarten - No</p>
<p>Special Education: Early Intervention Specialist, Birth through Prekindergarten            (Effective 8.1.15 pending Rule 24 approval)</p>	<p>All children, Birth through Prekindergarten, All settings</p>	<p><u>Rule 51/52:</u> Yes. (Requires individual have, or earn concurrently the Special Education endorsement at the K-6 or K-12 level.)  <u>Rule 11:</u> Yes  <u>Rule 10:</u> Does not apply</p>
<p>Rule 51: Special Education requirements for programs serving children age 3 through 21            Rule 52: Special Education requirements for programs serving children birth to age 3            Rule 11: Early Childhood programs serving children birth to kindergarten entrance age            Rule 10: Requirements for School districts K-12</p>		