

# Early Childhood Education Annual Report 2025-26

## Goals:

- Create an inviting and supportive environment that promotes children's optimal growth and development within the context of a group setting.
- Demonstrate knowledge about the characteristics, identification, and needs of exceptional individuals and how to adapt instruction to meet their needs.
- Use content knowledge to build a meaningful curriculum through the utilization of respectful, responsive teaching strategies.
- Take responsibility for professional behavior and professional involvement with young children and their families.
- Successfully complete onsite observations and practicum experiences with typical, exceptional, and diverse learners to gain experience developing and implementing instructional plans while working effectively with all students and staff.

Goals are assessed yearly. Assessment plans are created, data gathered, and progress reports filed. Some recent changes to the program in the pursuit of these goals include shifting the program online, hiring new adjunct faculty, and reviewing and updating the curriculum. Outcomes are updated and revised as goals are met and new goals are identified.

## Assurances:

Assurances are met through the same process as goals. The program is assessed yearly, and changes are made through a process of continual improvement. In addition, faculty are evaluated yearly, and programs are reviewed on a five-year rotating basis. The college also periodically performs a program vitality review to ensure program offerings are still in demand by students and employers, jobs are available and pay a sustaining wage, and the program remains financially viable for the college.

## Pass Rates:

Students who successfully complete the Early Childhood Education program at Southern State Community College are eligible to apply for the 5-year Prekindergarten Associate license. In the last two years, 2023 and 2024, seven graduates have applied: four have been approved, and three have been denied. In the last eight years, 2017 – 2024, eleven have applied: six have been approved, and five have been denied.

## Program Information:

Southern State Community College is an open-enrollment institution. Currently, there are 42 students enrolled in the program. Ninety-three (93%) percent of students are White, three (3%) percent of

students are Hispanic of any race, and five (5%) percent of students are Black or African American. Ninety-eight (98%) percent of students are female. All graduates are required to complete 280 hours of observation during their early childhood practicum. Many graduates (22%) of the Early Childhood program at SSCC move on to complete their 4-year degrees and sit for their licensure. The only license they can receive with a 2-year associate's degree is the Prekindergarten Associate license. In the last eight years, eleven students have applied for the Prekindergarten Associate license.

### Statement of Approval or Accreditation

Southern State Community College is a state-approved educational institution in the state of Ohio. The Chancellor's office and the Ohio Department of Higher Education have approved the Early Childhood Education program for delivery at SSCC.

### Description of Activities:

In addition to the early childhood practicum, students in the early childhood program take courses in Education Technology, Assessment of Children, Child Development, Individuals with Exceptionalities, Children's Literature, Children's Social Studies, Creative Arts, Safety and Nutrition, and Families, Communities and Schools. Activities in the courses serve to provide academic and experiential learning, including classroom observation, reflective essays, portfolio development, tests, quizzes, and hands-on exercises.