

## **Mansfield Advocates for Children**

**PURPOSE/CHARGE:** Mansfield Advocates for Children (MAC) is an early childhood collaborative invested in the well-being of children and their families in Mansfield. Our goal is to assure that Mansfield children ages birth through eight years old are healthy, successful learners, and they and their families are connected to the community. MAC also proudly serves as an advisory council to the Mansfield Town Council on issues relating to education, health and the safety of young children. MAC also acts as the Mansfield School Readiness Council, which oversees and implements guidelines for the School Readiness program. This includes making recommendations related to School Readiness funding, reviewing grant applications, fostering partnerships between area agencies and providers, evaluating the effectiveness of School Readiness programs, identifying resources available to children and families, facilitating the delivery of those services, and encouraging public participation.

**COMPOSITION/MEMBERSHIP:** The Committee shall be composed of at least seven (7) members, but no more than twenty-five (25) members. Membership characteristics, as required by the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood's School Readiness Grant program, shall include:

- The Mayor or designee
- The Superintendent of Schools or designee
- Parents and/or Guardians of Mansfield children
  - At least twenty-five (25) percent of the membership shall be parents or guardians of children
- Representatives from local programs associated with children including but not limited to:
  - School Readiness Grant recipients
  - Local early care and education providers
  - Home based early care providers
  - Family resource centers
- Representative from a local health care provider in the community
- Local homeless education liaison (McKinney-Vento Liaison)
- Representative from a workforce or job training entity in the community
- Representative from a local business in the community
- Other representatives from the community who provide services to children including but not limited to:
  - Public Librarian
  - Public & private sector services
  - Faith based organizations
  - University based organizations
  - Community members with an interest in early childhood initiatives

Members are appointed by the Town Manager for three-year, staggered terms. Members are required to recuse themselves from any discussion or vote pertaining to the issuance of Town grant funds to the agency which employs them.

### **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Acts as the School Readiness Council to oversee the distribution of School Readiness spaces and Quality Enhancement funds.
- Reviews and recommends grant funding for School Readiness.
- Serves as an advocate regarding the early childhood needs of the residents of Mansfield.

**MEETINGS:** The Committee will meet October through June, with the exception of November and January, on the first Wednesday of the month at 5:30 PM.