PUBLIC CONSULTING GROUP

SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT

Megan Smith



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Let's Connect On LinkedIn

Megan Smith is a Senior Consultant at Public Consulting Group (PCG) specializing in early care and education systems. She leads feasibility studies, system design, and market analyses for state and local agencies, including the Delaware Child Care Hub Architecture project. With more than 18 years of experience in early childhood education, state government, and consulting, Megan brings deep expertise in CCDF policy, QRIS, workforce registries, career pathways, shared services, and funding models. She translates data, policy review, and stakeholder input into practical, decision-ready recommendations for state leaders.

Expertise

- Child care systems design, feasibility studies, and implementation planning
- Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) policy and federal funding strategy
- Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (QRIS) standards and implementation
- Early childhood workforce development, career pathways, and workforce registries
- Shared services and Child Care Hub models
- Child care market analysis, market rate studies, and cost modeling

Education

Megan holds a Master of Science in Early Childhood Studies with a concentration in Public Policy and Advocacy from Walden University. She also holds a Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Unified from Fort Hays State University and a Bachelor of Arts in General Studies from the University of Kansas.

Experience

Prior to joining PCG in 2024, Megan served the Kansas Department for Children and Families (2020–2023) as Quality Improvement System Development Specialist and later Quality Child Care and Continuous Improvement Manager. She led planning and implementation of CCDF pandemic relief funding initiatives, managed contracts for statewide implementation of the Kansas QRIS, Links to Quality, and led refinement of QRIS standards aligned with NAEYC, NAFCC, Head Start, and CCDF requirements. She also served as a subject matter expert for Kansas's statewide early childhood career pathway and workforce registry. Before that, as Community Consultant Lead at Child Care Aware of Kansas (2018–2020), she provided coaching, technical assistance, and professional development to providers in the QRIS pilot. Earlier, at Hilltop Child Development Center (2012–2018), she oversaw curriculum and instruction across 18 classrooms, conducted CLASS® observations and coaching, and supported NAEYC accreditation.

Professional Network

- National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)
- PCG Accessibility Champions Network

Presentations

- *Blending & Braiding Funds for Children and Families.* BUILD25 National Conference, BUILD Initiative, Los Angeles, CA. Presenter, December 2025.

Certifications

- CLASS® Toddler Observation Tool (previously reliable, 2015-2020)
- CLASS® Pre-K Observation Tool (previously reliable, 2015-2020)
- Program Administration Scale (PAS) (previously reliable, 2020)
- Business Administration Scale (BAS) (previously reliable, 2020)
- Smartsheet Certification