Humility
Empathy
Courage
“I believe that every single child deserves the opportunity for a strong start in life through high-quality preschool, and expanding those opportunities must be part of ESEA.”

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan
EARLY LEARNING AT ED
A CRADLE-TO-CAREER CONTINUUM

Improve the health, social-emotional, and cognitive outcomes for all children from birth through 3rd grade, especially those with high needs.
STRATEGIC PLAN

EARLY LEARNING

- Access to high-quality early learning programs
- Comprehensive early learning assessment systems
- Effective early learning workforce
OFFICE OF EARLY LEARNING
OVER $2 BILLION

Office of Early Learning

- Early Learning Challenge
- Preschool Development Grants
EARLY LEARNING CHALLENGE

20 STATES

Phase 1
California
Delaware
Massachusetts
Maryland
Minnesota
North Carolina
Ohio
Rhode Island
Washington

Phase 2
Colorado
Illinois
New Mexico
Oregon
Wisconsin

Phase 3
Georgia
Kentucky
Michigan
New Jersey
Pennsylvania
Vermont
RTT-ELC ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORTS
TO BE RELEASED SUMMER, 2015

- RTT-ELC Grantees are making great progress. Across the 20 RTT-ELC States combined –

  - 200,360 children with high needs were enrolled in State-funded preschool programs that were in the top tiers of the states’ TQRIS (a 176% increase from the start of their grants)

  - 228,780 children were enrolled in top tier CCDF-programs (a 75% increase)

  - 151,676 children were enrolled in top tier Early Head Start and Head Start programs (a 107% increase)
ENHANCED ASSESSMENT GRANTS
EXPANDING KINDERGARTEN ENTRY ASSESSMENTS
EARY EDUCATION IN THE SPOTLIGHT
DEFINING HIGH-QUALITY

12 COMPONENTS

1. High staff qualifications
2. High-quality professional development for all staff
3. Child-to-instructional staff ratio of no more than 10 to 1
4. Class size of no more than 20
5. Full-Day program
6. Inclusion of children with disabilities
7. Developmentally appropriate, culturally and linguistically responsive instruction
8. Individualized accommodations and supports
9. Comparable salaries
10. Program evaluation to ensure continuous improvement
11. Comprehensive Services
12. Evidence-based health and safety standards
EARLY LEARNING TURNAROUND MODEL
KEY COMPONENTS

1. Full Day Kindergarten and High-Quality Preschool
2. Joint planning across P-3 grades
3. New principal as early learning leader
4. Implement evaluation & support systems for teachers and principals
5. Identify and reward school leaders, teachers, and other staff
6. Recruit, retain, and reward excellent staff
7. Research-based, developmentally appropriate, and vertically aligned instructional program across multiple domains
8. Use data to inform and differentiate instruction
9. Job-embedded, intensive, ongoing professional development
POLICY STATEMENTS

PUBLIC INPUT

- Suspension and expulsion (released December, 2014)
- Inclusion (in progress)
- Family (in progress)
- Health (in progress)
- Comprehensive Assessment Systems (in progress)
STUDIES & RESEARCH
TO ADVANCE THE FIELD

• Studies
  • National Academies of Science
    • Transforming the Workforce for Children Birth Through Age 8: A Unifying Foundation (Spring, 2015)
    • Supporting the Parents of Young Children (2016)
    • Fostering Early Learning and Academic Success for all ELs & DLLs: Research to Inform Practice (2016)
  • ED/HHS
    • TQRIS Evaluation
    • P-3 Sustaining Effects
    • KEA
    • ECE Apprenticeships

• Early Learning Research Network
• Parent Toolkit
“Research shows that one of the best investments we can make in a child’s life is high-quality early education.”

President Barack Obama
TOP PRIORITIES WITH CONGRESS
ESEA REAUTHORIZATION
INCLUDING EARLY LEARNING

- Senate bipartisan effort / House...

- New early childhood education amendment - for coordination, alignment and early childhood education

- New specific mentions of support for early childhood education and/or preschool age children in Titles II, IV, V, and X

- Retains allowable use of Title I for early childhood education through school wide and targeted assistance programs
STRONG START FOR AMERICA'S CHILDREN
REINTRODUCED IN 114TH CONGRESS

Home Visiting

Pre-K
IDEA Part B 619
IDEA Part C

EHS-CC Partnerships

Birth – 5
Strong Start
FY 2016 BUDGET

PRESCHOOL FOR ALL

- Preschool For All
  - $75 billion over 10 years and $1.3 million in the first year.

- Preschool Development Grants
  - $750 million, an increase of $500 million

- IDEA – Special Education
  - Part C - $503.6 million, an increase of $65 million
  - Part B, 619 - $403.2 million, and increase of $50 million

- Title 1
  - $15.4 billion, an increase of $1 billion
WHITE HOUSE INITIATIVES

NOT SLOWING DOWN

• White House Summit on Early Education in December, 2014
  • Invest in US
  • Early Learning Communities

• My Brother’s Keeper

• Bridging the Word Gap

• Task Force on New Americans
THANK YOU!

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Join our list serv at www.ed.gov/early-learning
Breakout One

1. Building Diverse Leaders — a facilitated discussion - How can states encourage diversity in the early childhood leadership corps, including cultural, linguistic, and economic diversity?

2. Digging Into Systems Thinking — Continued Discussion with Tracy Benson

3. Data Driven Leadership — What are the data systems needed for policy leaders to push their agenda forward?