

A FOCUS ON EARLY LEARNING AT THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

2010 Reading Institute
Early Learning and Development Strand: Birth to Third Grade

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*It will be the goal of this administration to ensure that every child has access to a complete and competitive education from the day they are born to the day they begin a career ... **we know that the most formative learning comes in those first years of life.***



President Obama
February 24, 2009

AGENDA

- Early Learning at the Department of Education
- Interagency Collaboration to Improve Early Learning
- Early Learning in the Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)



EARLY LEARNING AT THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The Department's early learning initiative focuses on improving the health, social-emotional, and cognitive outcomes for all children, especially high-need children from birth through 3rd grade.



AN OVERARCHING GOAL FROM CRADLE TO CAREER



Goal: All kindergarten students arrive ready to succeed and remain on track to 4th grade.

Goal: All students enter middle school with foundational skills to tackle advanced subjects.

Goal: All students graduate high school on time prepared for at least one year of post-secondary.

Goal: All graduates have opportunities for success in the 21st century economy.



PROMOTING EARLY LEARNING

- administering several early learning programs
- encouraging States and local districts to target resources for early learning
- promoting State and local education agency partnerships with other early learning agencies and programs in the State or community



PROMOTING EARLY LEARNING

- conducting research on early learning through the Institute of Education Sciences (IES)
- funding technical assistance on early learning topics, including early literacy and social and emotional development
- supporting the development of State longitudinal data systems that include early learning programs



INTERAGENCY COLLABORATION TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES FOR YOUNG CHILDREN



- A Shared Vision
- Six Interagency Study Groups
- Listening and Learning about Early Learning Tour



A SHARED VISION

- Learning across all domains
 - Physical health and well-being
 - Social-emotional development
 - Approaches toward learning
 - Language and literacy
 - Cognitive skills
- Improving quality across all settings birth through third grade
- Coordinated research agenda and linked data systems



SIX STUDY GROUPS

- Standards, Curriculum and Assessment
- Program Standards
- Family Engagement
- Health Promotion
- Workforce and Professional Development
- Data Systems



**LISTENING AND LEARNING ABOUT
EARLY LEARNING**

Materials from the tour now posted at www.ed.gov

- Washington, DC—Understanding P-3 Structures
- Denver, CO—Workforce and Professional Development
- Orlando, FL—Family Engagement
- Chicago, IL—Standards and Assessments



EARLY LEARNING IN ESEA

ESEA reauthorization provides the opportunity to promote a continuum of early learning programs and services from birth through 3rd grade across the six core areas.



**ESEA REAUTHORIZATION PROVIDES
OPPORTUNITIES FOR:**

- High-quality preschool & smooth transitions
- Alignment of standards and assessments
- Coordination of professional development
- Engagement of families in their children's learning
- Integration of high-quality early learning programs into school reform efforts




**CORE AREAS FOR ESEA
REAUTHORIZATION**

 Accelerating Achievement & Ensuring Equity	 Excellent Instructional Teams
 Educating Diverse Learners	 Effective Teaching & Learning
 Supporting Student Success	 Fostering Innovation & Success




ACCELERATING ACHIEVEMENT & ENSURING EQUITY

- Promote the use of Title I funds to support high-quality preschool programs for eligible children, birth to school age
- Encourage high-quality preschool in education reform
- Support developmentally appropriate comprehensive early learning assessment systems to improve educational outcomes for children



EXCELLENT INSTRUCTIONAL TEAMS

- Promote joint professional development for elementary school staff and early childhood teachers to address school readiness and transitions
- Support preparation and professional development that expand principals' knowledge about child development and appropriate and effective instructional strategies and interventions for young children.



EDUCATING DIVERSE LEARNERS

- Increased support for the inclusion and improved outcomes of children with disabilities (in addition to IDEA funds that serve young children)
- Support the unique needs of young Dual Language Learners and other traditionally underserved populations



EFFECTIVE TEACHING & LEARNING

- Support comprehensive efforts for the provision of high-quality Literacy instruction and strategies from preschool through grade 12
- Encourage comprehensive high-quality Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) instruction and strategies to students from preschool through grade 12



SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS

- Support the Promise Neighborhood program to provide effective community, family and educational supports to improve outcomes for children and youth from birth through college and to a career
- Encourage schools and their community partners to provide the environment that children need to be successful, safe, and healthy
- Support districts and community-based organizations to provide children and families with additional time to succeed







FOSTERING INNOVATION & SUCCESS

- Encourage comprehensive education reforms through Race to the Top
 - In 2010 includes an invitational priority to improve educational outcomes for high-need children, prekindergarten through third grade, by enhancing the quality of preschool program
- Support promising and proven educational practices through Investing in Innovation (i3)
 - In 2010 includes a competitive priority for activities to improve outcomes for high-need young children birth through 3rd grade



FOUR ASSURANCES AND EARLY LEARNING

 <p>Raise standards and improve assessments.</p>	 <p>Recruit, retain & support effective educators, and ensure equitable distribution.</p>
 <p>Build robust data systems that track student progress and improve practice.</p>	 <p>Turn around low-performing schools, focusing on dropout factories and their feeder schools.</p>



MORE ABOUT EARLY LEARNING AT ED

www.ed.gov/early-learning



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