



February 13, 2013

Dear Mr. President,

We are delighted to write today on behalf of the National Association of Early Childhood Specialists in State Departments of Education (NAECS-SDE) – the national organization for state education agency (SEA) staff members with major responsibilities in the field of early childhood education, from infancy through the primary grades. We share and support your desire to provide high-quality preschool for all young children in our country and applaud your proposal to work with states to make this happen.

We will work diligently and with passion to implement your vision: that all children have access to a quality early learning experience before they enter kindergarten. We believe, as you do, that well-designed and implemented early childhood programs improve the odds for children's school success as well as college and career readiness. You have our full support in this important and critical work and propose the following:

- Administer this enhanced preschool endeavor through the US Department of Education's Office of Early Learning
- Use the SEAs as the starting point for this work, assuring connections to the full learning continuum from birth to college and career
- Promote and expect that SEAs will continue their work partnering with other state, local and community agencies and organizations in a way that meets the needs of the children and families in our states.

Thank you for your strong support of early learning through high quality preschool experiences. As those who administer the many and varied early learning programs in the states, we look forward to working closely with the US Department of Education as well as our national and state level early childhood partners to make your vision a reality for our children. They deserve the best we can offer.

Please let us know how we can help move the vision forward.

Sincerely,

Renee Demars-Johnson
NAECS-SDE President

Gayle M. Stuber, Ph.D.
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