

A Focus on Early Learning at the U.S. Department of Education

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**2010 NAECS-SDE ANNUAL MEETING
FOCUS ON PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**PHOENIX, ARIZONA
JUNE 4, 2010**

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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

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- Early Learning at the U.S. Department of Education
- Stronger Collaborations at the Federal Level
- Early Learning in FY11 and Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)
- Best Practices



Early Learning at the U.S. Department of Education

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... improving the health, social, emotional, and cognitive outcomes of all children, especially those who are high-need from birth through 3rd grade.



A Comprehensive Focus in Early Learning Programs

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- ✓ Physical health and well-being
- ✓ Social-emotional development
- ✓ Approaches to learning
- ✓ Language and literacy
- ✓ Cognitive skills



An Overarching Goal from Cradle to Career



Goal: All kindergarten students arrive ready to learn 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.

Stronger Collaboration at the Federal Level

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Interagency Early Learning Initiative

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- Six Study Groups
- Encouraging Coordinated State Early Learning Systems
- Discussing Policy
- Listening and Learning about Early Learning



Six Study Groups

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



Coordinated State Early Learning Systems

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- Aligned early learning and development standards, curriculum and assessments
- Program quality and rating system with a review, monitoring and improvement system
- Plan for human capital
- Strategies for family engagement
- Systems to facilitate health screening and referrals
- Coordinated zero to 5 data infrastructure



Discussing Policy

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- Reauthorization of ESEA
- Head Start Performance Outcomes
- Quality Rating and Improvement Systems

Listening and Learning about Early Learning

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Materials from the tour now posted at

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/inits/ed/earlylearning/tour.html>

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

The President's FY11 Budget

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Raise the bar on quality across all publicly-funded early learning settings through investments that:

- improve outcomes,
- engage families in their child's early learning and development, and
- strengthen the early education workforce.

Continued Support for IDEA in FY11 Budget

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- **Grants to States**

- Provide an additional \$250 million in formula grants to help States pay the extra costs of providing special education and related services to children with disabilities aged 3 through 21 years

- **Preschool Grants Program (Part B Section 619)**

- \$374.1 million to support states in providing special education and related services to preschoolers with disabilities ages 3 through 5

- **Grants for Infants and Families Program (Part C)**

- \$439.4 million to help states implement statewide systems of early intervention services for all eligible children, birth through age 2 and their families



The FY11 ED Budget and ESEA

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- Raise the bar for all students. Close the gap.
- Tight on goals. Loose on means.
- Foster innovation and reward success.
- Build on the four assurances.

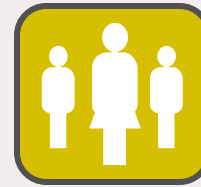


Four Assurances and Early Learning

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Raise **standards**
and improve
assessments.



Recruit, retain & support
effective educators, and
ensure equitable
distribution.



Build robust **data systems**
that track student progress
and improve practice.



Turn around **low-**
performing schools,
focusing on dropout factories
and their feeder schools.



Early Learning Opportunities in ESEA

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- 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



College- and
Career-Ready
Students



Great Teachers
and Great
Leaders



Meeting the
Needs of
Diverse
Learners



A Complete
Education



Successful,
Safe and
Healthy
Students



Fostering
Innovation and
Excellence

Our proposal supports high-quality early learning approaches.

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Continued Title I Support of Preschool

- Districts may continue to use **Title I** funds to support high-quality preschool programs for eligible children, beginning at birth.
- As of 2007-08, an estimated 2.6% of all participants (455,660 children) were in preschool programs

Our proposal supports high-quality early learning approaches.

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A Birth-Through-College-to-Career Agenda

\$210 million for **Promise Neighborhoods** - to improve the educational and life outcomes for children from birth through college and to career.

Comprehensive neighborhood planning and implementation grants to high-need communities to provide:

- effective community services
- strong family supports, and
- comprehensive education reform

Our proposal supports high-quality early learning approaches.

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Supporting Successful, Safe, and Healthy Students

- \$410M to promote comprehensive strategies that create safe and drug-free learning environments for all students including young children.
- \$1.166 billion for **21st Century Community Learning Centers**

Our proposal supports high-quality early learning approaches.

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Comprehensive Education Reforms

- **Race to the Top** - encourages states and districts to undertake ambitious, comprehensive reforms of their education systems that will dramatically improve student outcomes, including for young children.
- FY10 - *invitational priority* for practices, strategies, or programs to improve educational outcomes for high-need children (prekindergarten through third grade)

Our proposal supports high-quality early learning approaches.

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Encouragement for Innovation in Early Learning

- The **Investing in Innovation (i3)** - supports promising and proven educational practices, including early learning programs that improve the outcomes for young children.
- FY10 - *competitive priority* for activities to improve outcomes for high-need young children (birth through 3rd grade)

Our proposal supports early learning professionals.

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Promoting Joint Professional Development

- Joint professional development activities for school staff and early childhood educators
- Address such issues as school readiness across all the major domains of early learning and the transition to elementary school.

Our proposal supports early learning professionals.

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Expanding Educators' Knowledge of Early Learning

- \$2.5 billion for the **Effective Teachers and Leaders State Grants**
- \$950 million for the **Teacher and Leader Innovation Fund**
- Expand the early childhood knowledge base for teachers and administrators regarding appropriate and effective instructional strategies, interventions, and programs for young children.

Our proposal supports early learning professionals.

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Support for Teachers of Young Children

\$405 million for **Teacher Leader Pathways** - to promote successful and innovative pathways into teaching and bold approaches to recruiting, developing, retaining, and rewarding effective teachers in high-need schools, including teachers of young children

Our proposal expands learning opportunities for young children.

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Seamless Transitions and Improved Coordination

Continue to require public schools to coordinate with early learning programs (including community-based programs such as Head Start) and services (including those supported through the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*) to improve school readiness and transitions

Our proposal expands learning opportunities for young children.

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Strengthened Literacy P-12

- \$450 million for the **Effective Teaching and Learning: Literacy** comprehensive Pre-K through grade 12 program
- Building on the FY10 **Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy Program**
 - Formula (\$10 million) and competitive grants (\$250 million) for comprehensive high-quality literacy instruction and support for children from birth through grade 12

Our proposal expands learning opportunities for young children.

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Strengthened STEM P-12

\$300 million for the Effective Teaching and Learning: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) comprehensive Pre-K through grade 12 program

Our proposal expands learning opportunities for young children.

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Comprehensive Early Learning Assessment Systems

Support for states and districts to develop and implement developmentally appropriate comprehensive early learning assessment systems to ensure programs are moving toward continuous improvement and preparing children to be successful in school and in life

Best Practices

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Across the Country



Alabama – Public/Private Partnerships

Arizona – Systems Thinking/DAP/ Cognitive Coaching

Delaware – Working towards an integrated system

Kansas – Collaboration

Maryland – Montessori – 3- through 6- year olds in
same classroom

Massachusetts - Attempt at High Quality for Homeless
Children & Families

Michigan - Convening of local & state early childhood
groups

The 30,000 foot view



Questions & Comments

