

Student Readiness: Early Learning



Washington Student Achievement Council

May 23, 2013

Early Learning Policy Issue

Assess how the needs of the Pre-kindergarten population have implications for K-20 learning, and advise the Council on how higher education could contribute to addressing this barrier.



The Early Learning Workgroup

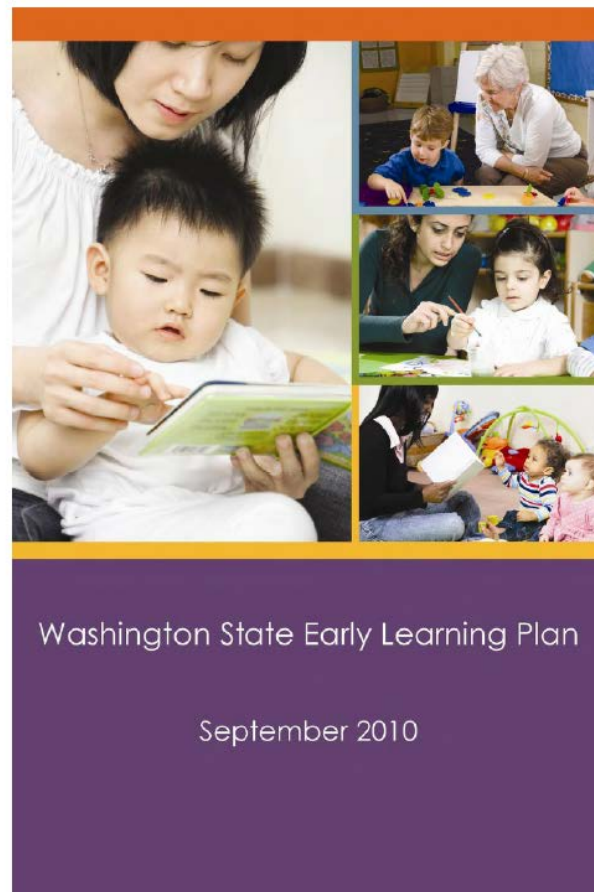
- Created to help Council members address this Roadmap challenge area.
- Scott Brittain, Ray Lawton are lead Council members.
- Comprised of representatives from key agencies, institutions, and organizations that support Washington's early learning system.
- Report outlines the workgroup's policy options.

Policy recommendations are founded on key early learning targets:

- **Increase** access to high-quality programs.
- **Improve** the workforce.
- **Develop and implement** comprehensive assessment systems.
- **Ensure** program effectiveness and accountability.

Endorse Washington's Early Learning Plan

The Department of Early Learning, Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Thrive by Five Washington collaborated with a broad range of stakeholders to develop a comprehensive plan for Early Learning in Washington.



Provide more parenting learning opportunities

Provide additional support for parent/family education programs offered by the community and technical college system.

The colleges provide support for a variety of highly successful parent education programs, many of which are targeted to specific populations.



Implement comprehensive professional development and compensation system

- **Provide incentives and pathways** for K-3 teachers to complete early learning endorsements as part of professional development.
- **Improve articulation** among early learning programs so students can more easily transfer.
- **Invest in professional development activities** that enable teachers to improve child-development understanding.
- **Encourage consideration of K-8 endorsement requirements** in early learning program preparation so teachers who pursue K-8 careers have a clear endorsement pathway.
- **Advocate for improved compensation** for Pre-K teachers and caregivers to ensure they earn a living wage.

Align Pre-kindergarten and K-3 instructional and programmatic practices

Support full implementation of the WaKIDS assessment system and collaboration to improve practices of early learning professionals and kindergarten teachers, and support smooth transitions for children.



Expand P-20 longitudinal data system

Include Pre-K students beyond ECEAP and Head Start students in the longitudinal data system.

Analyze data to support program development

Improve analysis of needs for educator training, including demand in Pre-K through third grade, as part of the State and Regional Needs Assessment Process and Skilled and Educated Workforce Report.



Improve funding for Early Learning

Enhanced funding for education including:

- Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program
- Funding for all-day kindergarten
- K-3 class size reduction



Questions & Discussion



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