
The Role of Pre-K-3rd Systems Development in Education Reform: Unpacking the Black Boxes of Human and Social Capital

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“If we raise expectations for every child, and give them the best possible chance at an education, from the day they are born until the last job they take ... By the end of the decade, America will once again have the highest proportion of college graduates in the world.”

President Obama
State of Union Address
January 25, 2011
The Early Learning Goal

...improve the health, social-emotional, and cognitive outcomes for all children, especially high-need children, from birth through 3rd grade.
A Focus across Multiple Domains

- Physical health and well-being
- Social-emotional development
- Approaches to learning
- Language and literacy
- Cognitive skills
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.
High-Quality Coordinated Early Learning System

- Program Standards/QRIS
- Early Learning Standards
- Comprehensive Assessment System
- Workforce/Professional Development
- Data
- Family Engagement
- Health Promotion
Areas of Focus

A high-quality workforce and professional development system supports the development of a qualified, competent, diverse, and appropriately-compensated early learning and development workforce that has potential to support positive outcomes for young children and their families.
A comprehensive early learning assessment system is a process of collecting and using information about the process and context of young children’s learning and program progress in order to make informed instructional and programmatic decisions.
A high-quality coordinated early learning and development system is a systematic effort among multiple programs and strategies to support positive early learning and development outcomes through quality services for children and families across the birth to age 8 continuum, regardless of program or setting.
President’s FY2012 Budget

• Education reform agenda to create an internationally competitive 21st century workforce

• High-quality early learning programs from birth through 3rd grade

• Spurs innovation and ensure every child’s full potential
Early Learning Challenge Fund ($350M)

- Competitive grants to drive State innovation
- Model systems of early learning and development
- Promotes high standards of quality and improve outcomes
• Ensures that more children enter school ready to succeed

• Jointly Administered by ED and HHS

• Complements increased investments for—
  • Head Start ($866M / $8.1M total)
  • Child Care ($1.3B / $6.3B total)
  • Home Visiting ($350M / $1.5 B over 5 years)
IDEA

• Infants and toddlers - Part C ($489M)--$50M increase
• Preschool children - Part B, Sec. 619 ($374M)
• Children aged 3 through 21- Part B, Sec. 611 (11.7M)—$200M increase
College- and Career-Ready Students ($14.8B)  
[Formerly Title I, Part A]

- Over 500K preschool children

- 8M children K-3rd grade

- Flexibility to invest funds --
  - high-quality preschool programs
  - joint professional development
  - coordination of early learning programs
Race to the Top ($900M)

- System-wide educational reform and innovation in States and districts
- Priority: projects to improve early learning outcomes
i3: Investing in Innovation ($300M)

• Innovative and evidence-based practices

• Programs and strategies that significantly improve student achievement and close achievement gaps

• Priority: projects to improving early learning outcomes
Promise Neighborhoods ($150M)

- Comprehensive education reform to high-need communities
- Improved educational and life outcomes for children from birth through college and to career
- Considered priority: projects that implement a comprehensive local early learning system
Effective Teaching and Learning for a Complete Education ($835M)

- Innovative practices to improve teaching and learning
- Comprehensive literacy, STEM, and other subjects for preschool through grade 12 high-quality instruction and support
Excellent Instructional Teams ($3.25B)

• Bold approaches to recruiting, preparing, developing, and retaining effective educators

• Encouraging pre- and in-service for teachers and principals to build knowledge about early learning

• Includes educators of young children
School Turnaround Grants ($600M)

- Rigorous interventions in persistently lowest-performing schools
- High-quality early learning programs can be an important element of school reform
- Interventions from preschool through grade 12, including improving school readiness
Additional Investments to Support Young Children

- 21st Century Community Learning Centers ($1.27B)
- Assessing Achievement ($420M)
- English Learner Education ($750M)
• Demonstration Grants for Indian Children ($19M)
• Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems ($100M)
• Successful, Safe, and Healthy Students ($365M)
ESEA Reauthorization

• Integration of early learning

• Preparation and professional development for elementary school principals about child development and early learning

• Comprehensive early learning assessment systems to improve practice and programs
Supporting Transitions

- LEA plans to include
  - Consideration of school readiness data to inform early learning strategies
  - Promoting continuity of services, effective transitions, and activities to increase coordination between LEA’s and early learning programs
  - Implement or support implementation of the Head Start coordination activities
Interagency Policy Board

- Increase coordination, effectiveness and outcomes for children among major federally funded early learning programs
  - Education
  - Health and Human Services
  - Domestic Policy Council
  - Office of Management and Budget
Additional Information can be found at

www.ed.gov/early-learning