



Early Edge California Accomplishments First Quarter 2020

Early Edge California is pleased to share highlights of our work from January through March 2020. These accomplishments would not have been possible without the generous support of our funders — thank you.

COVID-19 Response

- Beginning in March 2020, Early Edge adapted its priorities to support families and Early Learning teachers during the novel coronavirus crisis. The organization continues to monitor the situation and provides the following resources to the Early Learning community in a timely manner:
 - Weekly email blasts that include state or federal policy updates and resources for our Early Learning stakeholders including parents, teachers, and providers
 - Provided fact sheets to Giannina Pérez, Senior Policy Advisor for Early Childhood in the Office of the Governor, on how Kidango is supporting the community during the COVID-19 crisis
 - Summaries of state or federal guidance on COVID-19
 - Hosted virtual meetings for its teacher advisory group and LEA PLC Coalition members—an opportunity for the group to connect, share resources, and discuss strategies to cope with the crisis while continuing to serve our youngest learners
 - A series of Early Edge-vetted Coronavirus resource webpages, with content organized specifically for caregivers of dual language learners, families, teachers and providers, and policy partners

State-level Advocacy

- Early Edge and partner organization Kidango co-authored a statement in response to California Governor Gavin Newsom's proposed 2020-21 budget. Executive Director Patricia Lozano was one of 40 education leaders featured in [EdSource's](#) budget reaction round-up; the piece gathered responses from an impressive group of champions in the Early Learning, K-12, and postsecondary education space.
- Secured meetings with the following stakeholders during the first quarter of 2020:

- The office of Senator Lena Gonzalez—Early Edge met with Sen. Gonzalez’s legislative director in January 2020; the meeting went very well and the Senator’s office expressed an interest in partnering on future Early Learning and dual language learner (DLL) issues.
- Labor unions—Early Edge met with key representatives from the California Teachers Association (CTA), California Federation of Teachers (CFT), UDW AFSCME, CSEA, and SEIU CA to share and discuss legislative priorities for 2020.
- Prepared for a busy legislative season as co-sponsor on five early childhood education bills. Due to the novel coronavirus, the organization has re-directed its efforts to supporting families, teachers, childcare providers, and other Early Learning stakeholders who are adapting to children at home and learning in alternative methods.
- Executive Director Patricia Lozano was interviewed by [Capitol Weekly](#) for a piece on expanding transitional kindergarten to all 4-year-olds in California. The article also featured Assemblymember Kevin McCarty, lead author of Assembly Bill 2500 to approve universal transitional kindergarten.
- Hired a communications consulting firm, Swanson Communications, to support legislative communications needs in Sacramento. Consultant Robin Swanson will work closely with Early Edge Communications Director Joanna Cole.
- Planned an Educational Early Learning Tour legislative briefing which occurred in Sacramento in February 2020. Assemblymembers Kevin McCarty and Eloise Gómez Reyes sponsored the briefing, and were inspired by the tour to take certain actions in the coming year, including forming a new Early Learning and Care working group.
 - The briefing brought together many ECE leaders who came on the Tour—including Sarah Neville-Morgan (Deputy Superintendent for Teaching and Learning from the California Department of Education), Kim Pattillo Brownson (Vice President, Policy and Strategy at First 5 LA), Max Arias (Executive Director of SEIU Local 99), Scott Moore (CEO of Kidango), and Michael Olenick (President & CEO of the Child Care Resource Center)—to share testimonials about lessons learned and how to apply them in California.

- Chicago partner organization, Erikson Institute, was represented by Dr. Cristina Pacione-Zayas who discussed Erikson's Risk and Reach Report. Fresno Unified School District PreK teacher, Jessica Gutierrez, shared about her work with dual language learners (DLLs), and emphasized the importance of her training to work with DLLs through the Language Learning Project, one of six grantees to receive \$5 million in funding from the 2018 budget for professional development to support DLLs.
- Early Edge created a [video recap](#) of its Chicago Early Learning Tour in conjunction with the legislative briefing.

Supporting Dual Language Learners (DLL)

- Early Edge Executive Director Patricia Lozano joined [First 5 California's Legislative Briefing](#) on its AIR Pilot Study on Dual Language Learners, invited as a panelist to provide reaction to the study's initial findings and make connections to Early Edge's DLL Policy Platform recommendations.
- Participated in Loyola Marymount University's Center for Equity for English Learners' (LMU-CEEL) 27th Annual Jornada Pedagógica Internacional para la Educación Multilingüe (International Jornada Pedagógica for Multilingual Education), a professional development conference conducted in Spanish, and sponsored by Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) and California Association for Bilingual Education (CABE).
 - Executive Director Patricia Lozano had the honor of introducing the conference's keynote speaker, Dr. Dina Castro, the Velma E. Schmidt Endowed Chair for Early Childhood Education at the University of North Texas.
 - During the conference, Early Edge shared its Spanish-language video about the benefits of dual language programs for Early Learners.
- Launched a [Spanish language portal](#), featuring key content from Early Edge's website. Having content accessible in two languages aligns with Early Edge's vision for all California children to reap the benefits of speaking more than one language.
- Partnered with New America on featured blog posts to highlight our DLL video series, and our work on the DLL-PD grant project.

- Senior Policy Analyst Carolyne Crolotte was a co-presenter, along with Advancement Project California and Dr. Marlene Zepeda, at First 5 California's 2020 Child Health, Education, and Care Summit in February 2020. The breakout session featured the release of the DLL Policy Platform.
- Participated in the Sobrato Policy Partners meeting in February 2020 in Los Angeles. Early Edge shared organizational updates and DLL/EL priorities for 2020. The group finalized its collective goals, strategies, and tactics for 2020.
- Partnered with Harder + Company and the California Department of Education to identify next steps and contingency plans for the DLL-PD Evaluation and Grantee Convening in light of the current COVID-19 crisis.
- Co-hosted Westminster School District's Dual Language Infant and Toddler Classroom Open House. Westminster is one of the first districts in California to implement dual language Spanish infant and toddler programs. The event was a way to showcase the model program to local and state decision-makers.
- Co-hosted two SEAL model visits along with Advancement Project California at the following locations:
 - Selby Lane Elementary in Redwood City—included a tour of 3 high-quality state-funded preschool classrooms, a discussion with First 5 California commissioners, leadership team from Educare Long Beach, educators and local policymakers, and a presentation from Early Edge and Advancement Project on their new DLL policy platform.
 - Mountain View School district in El Monte—several important ECE stakeholders, like Giannina Pérez, Senior Policy Advisor for Early Childhood in the Office of the Governor, were in attendance. In addition to seeing model classrooms in action, Early Edge was also able to present its DLL Policy Platform to the group.
- Shared the Executive Summary of [*Improving Teacher Preparation to Support California's Dual Language Learners*](#) at the B-12 Water Cooler Convening in Sacramento. The policy brief provides recommendations to expand DLL-specific teacher preparation in California. The release of the full report is planned for spring 2020.

Partnerships and Events

- Executive Director Patricia Lozano was invited to lend her expertise at [Policy Analysis for California Education \(PACE\)'s Annual Conference](#) in February in Sacramento.
 - She joined Deborah Stipek (Judy Koch Professor of Education, Stanford), Scott Moore (CEO, Kidango) and Meera Mani (Director of Children, Families and Communities, Packard Foundation) as a panelist on “Improving Quality in Early Childhood Education.”
 - Patricia presented on Early Learning workforce issues and shared Early Edge California’s Workforce Policy Paper during the session.
- As a partner of All Together Now, the statewide movement to highlight the need to prioritize children in policy and budget decisions, Early Edge participated in its quarterly meeting to discuss plans for 2020.
- Early Edge partnered with The Early Learning Lab on a webinar to continue the conversation around its interactive report, [Enabling Smart Early Childhood Technology in Public Systems: Where We Are and What Comes Next](#). The webinar was well-received and participants learned go-forward strategies to support the successful development and adoption of smart early childhood technology.
- Early Edge released the following reports in the first quarter of 2020:
 - [State Early Childhood Governance Structures Landscape Analysis: Recommendations for California](#)—Early Edge, in partnership with Long Consulting Solutions, shared best practices in state ECE governance structures, and provided recommendations for California to build a quality ECE system.
 - [The Dual Language Learner Policy Platform: Informing California’s Early Learning and Care Policies and Investments in 2020–21 and Beyond](#)—Early Edge collaborated with Advancement Project California to develop the Platform; its recommendations are informed by DLL experts and stakeholders in the early childhood field, and guides decision-makers to build on the assets and recognize the needs of DLLs and their families when improving our state’s ELC system.

- [*Strengthening and Advancing California's Early Learning Workforce: Recommendations for the Master Plan*](#)—Early Edge explored the serious challenges that California's Early Learning teachers currently face, and made recommendations for the Master Plan to address these challenges and support the development of a highly-skilled Early Learning workforce statewide.

Connecting Policy to Practice

- Early Edge hosted the second meeting of its LEA ECE Professional Learning Community (PLC) Coalition in San Diego in late January 2020. The day consisted of a site visit in the morning and a focus on ECE workforce issues in the afternoon.
- Convened the first round of 2020 Early Learning Teacher Advisory Group meetings in Fresno. Due to the precautions surrounding COVID-19, Early Edge has cancelled the remaining meetings in the Bay Area and Oakland, and will reschedule them when able to safely do so. In the interim, we are hosting a series of virtual meetings to keep the group connected and engaged while they work to support our youngest learners.

Summary of our Resources

<https://earlyedgecalifornia.org/early-edge-california-resources/>