



Early Edge California Accomplishments Second Quarter 2020

Early Edge California is pleased to share highlights of our work from April through June 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 provide the following resources to the Early Learning community:
 - Research: In partnership with American Institutes for Research (AIR), Early Edge facilitated seven focus groups with providers from a variety of settings in May 2020.
 - The purpose of the project was to gain an understanding of what is happening in the field in response to the pandemic and resulting closures and adjustments.
 - The group hoped to identify the challenges and needs as well as potential bright spots from which others can learn, with an emphasis on supporting dual language learners (DLLs).
 - The goal was to provide useful information to public and private entities looking to support programs through the current challenging times.
 - Released [*California's Early Learning and Care Providers: Essential Workers Who Need Support*](#) in June 2020, a research brief prepared in collaboration with AIR.
 - Webinars: Since April 2020, Early Edge has hosted 15 [distance learning webinars](#) with special emphasis on supporting DLLs and family engagement, reaching over 6,000 Early Learning stakeholders via Zoom and 2,980 views on YouTube; plans are underway for more professional development offerings in fall 2020.
 - *La Opinión* featured Early Edge's webinar series in an article published in April 2020: "[Cómo obtener una educación bilingüe exitosa en el hogar.](#)"
 - Interview Series: The organization reached out to California's Early Learning community to share their experiences of navigating the health crisis and its impact on early learning and care. [In Their Own Words](#) currently features stories from several family childcare (FCC) providers, Pre-K teachers, and local educational agencies, as well as a community-based organization, and our Early Learning Advisory Group members.
 - Video Projects:

- Launched [Storytime with Early Edge California and Friends](#) in late June 2020. The series currently features Early Learning champions, California legislators Asm. Eloise Gómez Reyes, Sen. Connie Leyva, and Sen. Holly Mitchell reading their favorite children’s books in virtual storytime, and will continue during summer/fall 2020. Early Edge has also created companion materials for teachers and providers to conduct their own virtual storytime with the children they support.
 - Working with consultant Brighthouse Marketing to support the production of a short video featuring preschool-age children in California on their experience during COVID-19. This video will serve as an advocacy tool to influence key decisions made in the coming months around investments in Early Learning.
 - Providing Resources:
 - To meet the needs of its stakeholders during the health crisis, Early Edge expanded its bi-weekly newsletters to weekly updates. Content has centered around COVID-19 related policy and procedural updates (such as summaries of CDE bulletins and other announcements), reports, stakeholder stories, as well as resources and upcoming events.
 - Created [Coronavirus Resources for the Early Learning Community in California](#) - curated web pages of relevant, substantive resources for supporting young learners including DLLs which we continue to update with new content.

State-level Advocacy

- Early Edge CA partnered with lead authors and co-sponsor organizations on revising its [co-sponsored bills](#) to address the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - AB 2581 (Asm. Reyes, Mullin), AB 2516 (Asm. Reyes), SB 959 (Sen. Hurtado), and AB 2500 (Asms. McCarty, Reyes, Ting and Sens. Dodd, Gonzalez, Rubio) will not be moving forward this year, as the Legislature prioritized efforts to support families, teachers, childcare providers, and other Early Learning stakeholders during the crisis.
- Executive Director Patricia Lozano was invited to lend her expertise by:
 - Serving on the board of directors of [Parents as Teachers](#) (PAT). PAT is the nation’s leading and most replicated parental education program.
 - Joining the [Early Childhood Policy Council](#) (ECPC) as the Legislature’s appointee to the Parent Advisory Committee. Patricia joins representatives from Parent Voices California and Kidango.
 - Championing for parent engagement and preserving the home language in *EdSource*’s article: “[California teachers worry gap widening for English learners during school closures.](#)”
- Published a policy brief, [An Investment in Our Children](#), in May 2020. The piece provided on-the-ground context for what teachers, parents, and administrators

currently face during the COVID-19 pandemic, and provided recommendations on how California can support the Early Learning community. Early Edge synthesized feedback from focus groups, polls, and virtual meetings, connecting policymakers with the voices of those on the frontlines of preschool and childcare.

- Participated in the California Alternative Payment Program Association (CAPPA) Virtual Advocacy Day in June 2020; Early Edge, along with the California Association for Bilingual Education (CABE), Californians Together, and Children Now, distributed a letter urging the California State Legislature to prioritize Dual Language and English Learners in the early childhood and K-12 systems when discussing student learning loss.
- Praised the California State Legislature and Governor Newsom for their agreement on the 2020-21 state budget, preserving Early Learning programs; Early Edge released its [statement](#) in partnership with Kidango.

Supporting Dual Language Learners (DLL)

- Early Edge participated in MomsRising and MamasConPoder's #EarlyEdChat on Twitter in May 2020. The hour-long bilingual tweetchat was dedicated to discussing the particular challenges that dual language learners face during COVID-19, and sharing resources and opportunities to support young DLLs.
- Co-facilitated the Consortium for EL Success' first virtual meeting of the year in May 2020; the group launched its collective [2020 Policy Agenda](#) and campaign plan. Early Edge serves as a member of the Consortium's Advisory Group and co-leads the group's activities.
- Co-hosted the fourth and final Dual Language Learner Professional Development (DLL-PD) convening with the grantees of the [\\$5M in professional development funding](#). The group celebrated and shared all that was made possible through this historic grant. Notable DLL champions participated in the convening, including funders who contributed to the success of the grant and Lupita Alcala from WestEd, who is leading the Master Plan for Early Learning and Care (MPELC) work.
 - Early Edge shared a [summary](#) of the convening as a blog post, and developed a [Policy Implications document](#) in May 2020.
- In June 2020, released [Improving Teacher Preparation to Support California's Dual Language Learners](#), a policy report that provides recommendations to expand DLL-specific teacher preparation in California.
 - The report was launched in a virtual presentation, "Supporting Dual Language Learners Through Improved Early Childhood Educator Preparation," as part of NAEYC's 2020 Virtual Institute.
- Senior Policy Analyst Carolyn Crotte was invited to share Early Edge's work on DLLs and distance learning during the [Bilingual Coordinators Network](#) (BCN) meeting in June 2020.
- Organized a DLL Workgroup virtual meeting on June 30, 2020, in collaboration with Advancement Project California and Glen Price Group (GPG).

- The Workgroup's goals were to identify the top needs of DLLs during the COVID-19 pandemic, and review and offer feedback on the *Emergency Response to COVID-19 for Young Dual Language Learner Children Addendum* to the previously released [DLL Policy Platform](#).
- Workgroup participants included thirty DLL champions, including Giannina Pérez, Dr. Marlene Zepeda, and representatives from partner organizations such as AIR, Californians Together, CSU-CI, LMU-CEEL, SEAL, and WestEd.

Partnerships and Events

- Hosted the [Early Edge California Advisory Board](#) members in a virtual meeting in June 2020 to share highlights of the organization's accomplishments, and discuss high-level priorities and goals for the coming year.
- Early Edge released the following resources in collaboration with partner organizations during the second quarter of 2020:
 - In April, released the [California Parent Poll: COVID-19 and Early Childhood](#) that outlined challenges for families brought about by the health crisis and identified key areas of need moving forward, in partnership with The Education Trust—West, The Children's Partnership, The District Innovation and Leadership for Early Education Initiative, and Child360.
 - In May 2020, released the [Consortium for English Learner Success Releases 2020-21 Policy Agenda for Supporting DLLs and ELs](#) in partnership with other DLL and EL advocates.
 - In May 2020, released the [English Learner Roadmap Hub](#) in partnership with leading advocates for DLLs and ELs, a collection of resources for implementing California's English Learner Roadmap state policy.
 - Published [Voices from the Field: Results from Early Learning Survey and Provider Focus Group](#) in June 2020, in partnership with Child360. The report incorporates feedback from Los Angeles-based Early Learning providers and teachers about needed workforce supports, and common challenges faced by programs.
- Began its partnership with the LeaderPower program, thanks to the Organizational Effectiveness grant funding from the Packard Foundation; the Early Edge team had its initial meeting with Capacity Coach LaTanya Flix in late June 2020, and is in the beginning stages of the Assessment, Sensemaking & Alignment phase within this exciting, multi-year process.

Connecting Policy to Practice

- Early Edge continued to host virtual meetings with its advisory groups:
 - The [Local Educational Agencies \(LEA\) Professional Learning Community \(PLC\)](#) began meeting weekly during the COVID-19 pandemic; the group discusses updates, guidelines, and other timely information related to their respective programs.

- The Early Learning Advisory Group met in May 2020 and discussed challenges and needs that emerged during the pandemic. The group will continue to meet on a regular basis.
 - Several Advisory Group members have contributed to projects such as Early Edge's distance learning webinars and the *In Their Own Words* interview series.

Summary of our Resources

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