



Early Edge California Accomplishments Third Quarter 2020

Early Edge California is pleased to share highlights of our work from **July through September 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: Released findings from our Early Learning provider survey in a research brief in September 2020: [A System in Jeopardy: California's Early Learning System and its Dual Language Learners During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#).
 - The brief was written in partnership with the American Institutes for Research (AIR), and examines the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Early Learning and care programs in California and the Dual Language Learners (DLLs) they serve.
 - Interview Series:
 - Early Edge continued to facilitate interviews with members of the Early Learning community in its series: *In Their Own Words: Hearing from our Early Learning Community during COVID-19*. A [Family Child Care Provider](#) in Berkeley, a [Transitional Kindergarten \(TK\) teacher](#) (and Early Learning Advisory Group member), and [Family, Friend, and Neighbor \(FFN\) providers](#) shared their stories during this time period.
 - Video Projects:
 - On September 17, 2020, Early Edge released its video: [What do Our Little Ones Think about COVID-19?](#)
 - The video features California's preschool-age children (ages 4 and 5 years) speaking in 6 languages (English, Spanish, Cantonese, Tagalog, Tajik, and Urdu).
 - It currently has more than 2,300 views and counting on YouTube.
 - Early Edge continued to expand our [Storytime series](#) featuring California legislators and other Early Learning stakeholders reading children's books.
 - Our readers include:
 - Sen. Toni Atkins - Senate Pro Tem
 - Sen. Connie Leyva
 - Sen. Holly Mitchell
 - Sen. María Elena Durazo
 - Speaker of the Assembly Anthony Rendon
 - Asm. Monique Limón
 - Asm. Eloise Gómez Reyes
 - Asm. Kevin McCarty

- Executive Director Patricia Lozano and other members of the Early Edge team.
- The series includes readings in English and Spanish.
- 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 Hub 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.
 - During this quarter, we created a sixth webpage to provide [resources on mental health for children families](#).

State-level Advocacy

- Released a [statement](#) in response to California's final 2020-2021 state budget agreement.
 - Early Edge applauded Governor Newsom and the Legislature for their unwavering support for Early Learning and child care.
 - The statement included reactions from Early Edge's LEA Professional Learning Community (PLC) members, and an [ECE budget summary](#).
- In July 2020, Patricia Lozano participated in the inaugural meeting of the [Early Childhood Policy Council Parent Advisory Committee](#). Patricia was appointed to this Committee by the Speaker of the Assembly, Asm. Anthony Rendon.
 - The meeting focused on two key issues that will help guide the Master Planning process: how to prioritize care to the most vulnerable families, and how to simplify and streamline the system.
- Early Edge continues to provide support to the MPELC team through extensive research and policy recommendations as requested. Early Edge shared an analysis of possible tax revenues to fund Early Learning, created a fiscal analysis of the cost of different universal preschool models and presented a policy proposal to expand Transitional Kindergarten (TK) while providing additional care to infants and toddlers, in addition to responding to numerous research requests and sharing our policy and research documents.
- Participated in the inaugural meeting of the [Early Childhood Policy Council's Workforce Advisory Committee](#) in August 2020.
 - The majority of the meeting focused on providing input and recommendations for the Master Plan for Early Learning and Care (MPELC). This portion of the meeting was led by Lupita Alcala, Director of Education Policy and Outcomes for the Center for Child & Family Studies at WestEd.

- Attended Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti's LA Early Childhood Equity Project leadership meeting in September 2020.
 - The virtual meeting was a reconvening of local ECE partners to move forward with project goals following a temporary pause during the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - The goal of the project is to eradicate the school readiness gap by 2025 with a focus on three main areas: workforce, equity, and alignment.

Supporting Dual Language Learners (DLLs)

- Participated in the California Department of Education (CDE) EL Roadmap Implementation Advisory Committee meeting in July 2020.
 - Discussed the new Educator Workforce Investment Grant Program (EWIG) grants, CDE's response to our Vision for Reopening Schools document, and provided feedback on the Pathways to Biliteracy criteria (including for preschool).
- In August 2020, Early Edge released a new policy brief in partnership with Advancement Project California, [COVID-19 Rapid Response: Urgent Needs of Dual Language Learner Children and Families](#), highlighting urgent actions and relevant long-term measures that need to be taken to ensure fair and equitable treatment of DLLs and their families and the dedicated teachers who work to support them.
- In September 2020, Early Edge released a 3-part DLL blog series in partnership with Advancement Project California and SEAL (Sobrato Early Academic Language) to elevate policy recommendations to support DLLs, their families, and the teachers who support them :
 - [Blog #1: Closing the Learning Divide for DLLs during COVID-19 and Beyond](#)
 - [Blog #2: Elevating the Urgent Needs of Young Dual Language Learners and their Families during COVID-19](#)
 - [Blog #3: Building an Equitable System for DLLs in the California Master Plan for Early Learning and Care](#)
- Awarded the Emerging Bilingual Collaborative grant in September 2020, focused on building field alignment on high-quality instructional and professional development practice for DLL/EL children in PreK through 3rd grade.
 - The project also includes a community of practice for PreK-3 district and Early Learning program leaders to discuss and share successes and challenges around school reopening and distance/hybrid learning for DLLs/ELs PreK-3.

Partnerships and Events

- Completed the organizational assessment and capacity building work with LaTanya Flix, through the LeaderPower program. Early Edge submitted our proposal, and were approved for our requested grant amount to begin our organizational development plan.
 - Early Edge has started to review consultants to assist in implementing the work.
- Engaged CPS HR recruitment consultants to facilitate hiring 3 additional staff members - a Senior Policy Analyst, a Communications Associate, and an Administrative and Project Coordinator.

- The recruitment process is ongoing; Early Edge hopes to fill the positions by the end of the year.
- Senior Policy Analyst Carolyn Crolotte presented “Supporting DLLs and Their Families” at the First Annual National Conference on Parents and Teachers as Education Co-Navigators held on August 15, 2020.
- On August 27, 2020, Executive Director Patricia Lozano was invited to be a panelist for *CalMatter*’s virtual panel on children’s mental health: “[Will the kids be all right?](#)”
 - Fellow panelists included Dr. Nadine Burke Harris, Surgeon General of California, and Dr. Sergio Aguilar-Gaxiola, Director of UC Davis’ Center for Reducing Health Disparities.
 - Five hundred people watched the event live and the recording of the event currently has 1781 views on YouTube.
 - Event organizers sent out a resource guide post-event, which included our Coronavirus Resources webpages, to the 1800 people who registered to attend.
 - *CalMatters* also covered the event in an [article](#).

Connecting Policy to Practice

- Early Edge continued to host virtual meetings with its advisory groups:
 - The [Local Educational Agencies \(LEA\) Professional Learning Community \(PLC\)](#) continued its weekly meetings; the group discusses updates, guidelines, and other timely information related to their respective programs.
 - The Early Learning Advisory Group met in July 2020 and discussed challenges and needs that emerged during the pandemic. The group will continue to meet on a regular basis.
- Early Edge interviewed six Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) providers and surveyed sixteen agencies that serve FFN providers including Resource and Referral Agencies, County Offices of Education and libraries to understand FFNs experiences and challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Early Edge released a [policy brief](#) highlighting the findings from the survey and interviews.
 - Early Edge plans to host the first advisory meeting for the FFN group on November 9, 2020.
- Early Edge recruited parents statewide to participate in our new [Parent Advisory Group](#). Participants from Los Angeles, Fresno, and Contra Costa County joined Advisory Groups virtual meetings offered in English and Spanish.
 - Gathered parents and guardians of young children from diverse backgrounds across California to participate in an Advisory Group, and explored how to best support families during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.
 - At the inaugural meetings held in August 2020, the groups discussed challenges associated with distance learning and child care during the pandemic and also discussed what they felt were the key elements of Quality in an Early Learning setting.

- Released a policy brief on California’s Early Learning Workforce in September 2020.
 - The new policy brief—“[Supporting the Early Learning Workforce through the Coronavirus Pandemic: Policy Recommendations for the State of California](#)”—addressed the challenges and needs of the workforce resulting from COVID-19.
 - Served as an addendum to the [February 2020 workforce policy paper](#).
- In September 2020, Early Edge launched its Teacher/Parent/Provider Quality Survey to
 - Received 54 completed surveys, with great representation across its advisory groups.
 - Early Edge is planning to share a summary and key findings from the survey.

Media Mentions

- New America: [California Budget Deal Largely Spares Early Childhood Education](#), 7/6/20
- EdSource: [Helping English learners succeed should be a top priority for schools amid the pandemic](#), 7/8/20
- Language Magazine: [Early Learning Programs Stretched by Pandemic](#), 7/19/20
- CALMatters: [Pandemic, wildfires, scorching heat: How to help our children cope](#), 8/21/20
- EdSource: [Many parents fill in gaps for preschoolers unable to go to in-person programs](#), 9/2/20
- Politico: [Where are all the kindergartners? Pandemic creates rare gap year](#), 9/18/20
- EdSource: [Spanish-language resources help parents deal with challenges of distance learning](#), 9/21/20
- New America: [The Struggle to Reopen Family Child Care](#), 9/24/20
- Politico: [California child care providers stand to lose millions of dollars](#), 9/29/20

Summary of our Resources 2020:

Q1: <https://earlyedgecalifornia.org/early-edge-california-resources-q1-2020/>

Q2: <https://earlyedgecalifornia.org/early-edge-california-resources-q2-2020/>

Q3: <https://earlyedgecalifornia.org/early-edge-california-resources/>