



Early Edge California Accomplishments Fourth Quarter 2020

Early Edge California is pleased to share highlights of our work from **October through December 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 October 2020, released a brief, "[Health, Information, Security, And Community: What Family, Friend, And Neighbor Providers Need During Covid-19](#)".
 - The policy brief presented key findings from a survey and interviews with FFN providers and the agencies that support them.
 - 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*. [Cosumnes River College Child Development Center](#) was featured during this time period.
 - Video Projects:
 - Collaborated with First 5 Association and First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom for a special [Storytime](#) video.
 - The video featured the First Partner reading “Everyone Gets a Say” - a children’s book that promoted the importance of voting.
 - Released ahead of Election Day in late October 2020.
 - Completed the Storytime series with [additional videos](#) from Early Edge team members.
 - 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.

State-level Advocacy

- Supported Proposition 15, or the Schools and Communities First Act, and published a [blog post](#) in October 2020 to recommend a Yes vote.

- On November 16, 2020, Early Edge Executive Director Patricia Lozano participated in the [Early Childhood Policy Council's final meeting of 2020](#).
- Early Edge released a [statement](#), in partnership with Kidango, in response to the release of the California Master Plan for Early Learning and Care in December 2020.
 - Early Edge thanked Governor Newsom for creating a plan that prioritizes the whole child.
 - Prepared accompanying documents to support the release of the Master Plan, including [Key Recommendations](#), and [Recommendations for Supporting DLLs](#).
- Prepared a Master Plan [Knowledge Brief](#) that was featured as a resource in the Master Plan for Early Learning and Care [website](#).
- In December 2020, released a [statement](#) in support of AB 22 (McCarty).
 - The bill was introduced as a 2021 Legislative Package to establish a high-quality, whole-child, mixed-delivery Early Learning and Care System for children birth to 5.

Supporting Dual Language Learners (DLLs)

- In October 2020, Early Edge partnered with Advancement Project California to present information about supporting DLLs for a Twitter chat hosted by MomsRising: “Addressing the Needs of Dual Language Learners and their Teachers during COVID-19 and Beyond” in October 2020.
 - This was the most engaging #EarlyEdChat that Early Edge had participated in to date, with a potential reach of over 8 million.
- In November 2020, Early Edge hosted the first convening of the [Dual Language Learner \(DLL\) / English Learner \(EL\) PreK-3rd COVID-19 Learning Community](#).
 - The community, composed of school districts and Early Learning programs across the state, discussed the top 3 most pressing challenges in supporting DLL/EL children, and identified specific strategies and solutions in response to these challenges.
 - The group plans to convene again in February 2021.
 - This work is a key component of the [Emerging Bilingual Collaborative project](#).
- In November 2020, Patricia Lozano published *CalMatters* op-ed in coordination with All Together Now titled, [Prioritizing the needs of our Dual Language Learners in the time of COVID-19](#), regarding the impact of kindergarten enrollment decline on children, including DLLs.
- In December 2020, co-presented with Advancement Project California at the LA County Child Care Planning Committee meeting.
 - Shared [DLL COVID-19 Addendum](#) recommendations and led a discussion with the group of over 60 participants on how they can help move the recommendations forward in their respective contexts.
- Senior Policy AnalystCarolyn Crolotte presented about Dual Language Learners at the Consortium for EL Success Local Grantees meeting on Dec. 10, 2020. Carolyn provided a high-level overview about DLLs, and shared key resources with participants.

Partnerships and Events

- On October 8, 2020, Executive Director Patricia Lozano was invited to moderate All Together Now's virtual panel: "[How Parent Surveys Can Inform our Child Care Messaging](#)".
 - Panelists included Ted Lempert, President of Children Now, Keisha Nzewi, Director of Public Policy at the California Child Care Resource & Referral Network, and Parker Blackman, Executive Director of the LA Partnership for Early Childhood Investment.
 - The session focused on the organizations' findings from recent surveys they conducted around child care.
 - Patricia led a Q&A session where they discussed how the results can inform child care messaging in California.
- On Nov. 8, 2020, Patricia Lozano join our partners at Early Learning Lab, Start Early, and Texans Care for Children for a panel at NAEYC's Annual Conference titled, ***Enabling Smart Early Childhood Technology in Public Systems: Where We Are and What Comes Next***, regarding our [joint report](#) on enabling smart early childhood technology in public programs and services.
- On Dec. 9, 2020, Early Edge brought together legislators, teachers, and Early Learning champions for a [virtual tour](#) of San Diego Unified School District's new TK 4 program.
 - The tour consisted of a virtual visit to a TK 4 classroom, an interview with an SDUSD teacher, a panel discussion featuring San Diego Unified leaders, and remarks from state assembly members Eloise Gómez Reyes (D-San Bernardino) and Kevin McCarty (D-Sacramento), both of whom emphasized the importance of investing in high-quality Early Learning, especially in light of the pandemic.
 - Key attendees included representatives from the Newsom Administration, California State Assembly, the California Department of Education, partners from labor unions such as CTA and SEIU, advocacy organizations, Early Edge funders, and media contacts.

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 October 2020 and discussed challenges and needs that emerged during the pandemic. The group is scheduled to meet again in early 2021.
 - Hosted the [first advisory meeting](#) for the Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) providers across California on November 9, 2020.
- Partnered with Child360 to facilitate two virtual focus groups in December 2020, the third year of this effort.

- Hosted two separate meetings with teachers and providers to discuss and share about challenges that they've encountered during the pandemic, and what resources they may need to address these issues.

Organizational Development and Capacity Building

- In October 2020, Early Edge began its recruitment efforts for 3 additional staff members - a Senior Policy Analyst, a Communications Associate, and an Administrative and Project Coordinator - and successfully filled these positions in December 2020.
 - [Kelly Reynolds](#)
 - [Edith Esparza](#)
 - [Dalila Renteria](#)
- Early Edge engaged the services of Gina Airey Consulting to facilitate the first phase of the two-year organizational effectiveness planning process generously supported by The David and Lucile Packard Foundation and The Sobrato Family Foundation. This initial work will focus on strategic planning and equity.

Media Mentions

- New America: [New Survey Highlights Impact of COVID-19 on Young DLLs in California](#), 10/7/20
- *CalMatters*: [Prioritizing the needs of our Dual Language Learners in the time of COVID-19](#), 11/6/20
- KDTV-Univision14: [Kindergarten Enrollment Decline in California \(in Spanish\)](#), 11/18/20
- KNBC: [Kindergarten Enrollment Down during Pandemic](#), 11/30/20
- *EdSource*: [Inside California's new master plan to reshape early education and child care](#), 12/1/20
- *CalMatters*: [New plan for children offers comprehensive system to meet learning needs](#), 12/3/20
- *LAist*: [A 10-Year Plan For Early Childhood In California With Uncertain Next Steps](#), 12/4/20
- *EdSource*: [Preschoolers learning English need to be identified, supported, says California's master plan](#), 12/7/20
- *EdSource*: [Another step toward universal preschool in California?](#), 12/9/20
- *San Diego Tribune*: [Hundreds of San Diego County child care providers have closed due to the pandemic](#), 12/14/20
- *BusinessWire.com*: [More Than Three-Fourths of Early Learning Centers Lack Educators Trained to Work With Dual Language Learners](#), 12/16/20
- *Ventura County Star*: [Where did all the kindergarteners go? Enrollment drops significantly in Ventura County](#), 12/19/20

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-q3-2020/>

Q4: <https://earlyedgecalifornia.org/early-edge-california-resources>