



Early Edge California Accomplishments First Quarter 2021

Early Edge California is pleased to share highlights of our work from **January through March 2021**. These accomplishments would not have been possible without the generous support of our funders — thank you.

State-level Advocacy

- Early Edge California kicked off the legislative season as a co-sponsor of three bills that will help us make quality Early Learning a reality for all children in California.
 - AB 22 (McCarty) - Universal Transitional Kindergarten (UTK)
 - Collaborated with Asm. McCarty's office and AB 22 co-sponsors to prepare [Fact Sheet](#), [Author's FAQ](#), and [Sample Support Letter](#).
 - Developed resources to support AB 22 such as the [AB 22 Media Toolkit](#), research on [UTK in the U.S. and Worldwide](#), research on [Universal Preschool](#), and a [summary on NIEER's Guide to Expanding Pre-K](#).
 - AB 1363 (Rivas) - Identifying & Supporting Dual Language Learners in California's Early Learning System
 - Collaborated with co-sponsors to publish the [AB 1363 One-Pager](#) and [Sample Support Letter](#).
 - SB 50 (Limón) - California's Early Learning and Care System
 - Collaborated with Senator Limon's office and SB 50 co-sponsors to develop the [SB 50 Fact Sheet](#), [Sample Support Letter](#), and [SB 50 Toolkit](#).
 - During the week of April 5th all three of Early Edge's sponsored bills passed in their respective committees with unanimous support.
- Supported the Early Learning CAPPAs Advocacy Day sponsored by Head Start California on January 23, 2021.
 - This was a one-day event in partnership with organizations such as First 5 California, Children Now, and the California Association for the Education of Young Children, GRACE, End Child Poverty in California, and Parent Voices San Francisco.
- Early Edge prepared a [Budget Summary and Analysis for the 2021-22 January Budget proposal](#).
- In February and March, Early Edge Executive Director Patricia Lozano participated and Early Edge's staff participated in several meetings hosted by the [Early Childhood Policy Council \(ECPC\)](#):
 - On February 3rd, 2021, Early Edge participated in the first [ECPC Quarterly Meeting](#) of 2021, participants reviewed the the results of the WestED survey which expressed that participants deeply valued being able to provide feedback and directly connect to state agencies,

appreciated hearing different perspectives of parents and providers, and valued the discussions that were taking place on equity.

- On March 17, 2021, the Early Childhood Policy Council (ECPC) convened a special session to discuss the Council's priorities within the 2021-2022 State Budget. This meeting developed from a conversation that occurred during the February 3rd ECPC meeting about how this body could be used to influence the Governor and Legislature's budget priorities. A survey was developed and the ECPC members discussed the results and the priorities they wanted to focus on and bring to the attention of the Governor's office. These priorities included:
 - COVID-19 impact and recovery;
 - Health, mental health, nutrition, and wellness;
 - Early childhood workforce professional development and career pathways;
 - Intergenerational family supports; and
 - Services that support the unique needs of children and families.
- During the [ECPC's Parent Advisory Committee Meeting](#) on March 23, 2021, committee members heard from parents across California about their most pressing needs as California transitions the majority of its child care systems from the California Department of Education (CDE) to the California Department of Social Services.
- In March 2021, Director of Dual Language Learner Programs, Carolyne Crolotte, presented on AB 1363 (Rivas) at the Californians Together quarterly meeting. Early Edge provided an overview of the bill and requested support for the bill by directing them to our [AB 1363 bill page](#).

Supporting Dual Language Learners (DLLs)

- On February 26, 2021, Early Edge co-sponsored and Patricia Lozano and Carolyne Crolotte presented at Loyola Marymount University's Center for Equity for English Learners (LMU-CEEL) virtual professional development conference, the [28th Jornada Pedagógica Internacional para la Educación Multilingüe](#).
 - The event was designed for bilingual teachers and families who want to promote the use of Spanish in their homes and communities.
- Hosted the following events as part of the [Emerging Bilingual Collaborative \(EBC\) project](#):
 - On February 25, 2021, Early Edge hosted the second [COVID-19 DLL/EL PreK-3rd Learning Community](#). The agenda focused on sharing resources and discussing strategies and solutions on the following topic areas: addressing future learning loss; family partnership and engagement strategies; and effective professional development.
 - On March 3rd, 2021, Early Edge co-facilitated a Practitioner Listening Session with project partners from the American Institutes for Research (AIR).

- Participants included practitioners and administrators who provided great feedback to the Multilingual Learner Starter Guide - a research-based document that outlines best practices in supporting multilingual learners PreK through 3rd Grade.
 - The following themes emerged from the group discussions:
 - The overall usability and need for the Multilingual Learner Starter Guide, particularly for teachers.
 - The importance of sharing visual and succinct examples of what the instructional practices might look like in the classroom.
- In March 2021, Carolyne Crolotte presented at the [Consortium for English Learner \(EL\) Success](#) Convening on the DLL-specific recommendations of the Master Plan, the First 5 California Expansion work, and AB 1363 (Rivas).
 - The Convening highlighted the work of four partner organizations, including Early Edge.
 - Policy Analysis for California Education (PACE) produced a [report](#) on the effects of COVID-19 on English Learners (EL), a resource for school districts as the state moves forward with school reopenings.
 - Californians Together (CalTog) developed an [Accountability Framework](#) to address the opportunity gaps and inadequate public services ELs face.
 - Another resource shared was the [Local Control and Accountability Plan \(LCAP\) Toolkit](#) to support having a focus on ELs during this critical period.
 - AB 1363 is supported by the Consortium for EL Success as a way to develop a standard process for providers to identify Dual Language Learners (DLLs).
- On March 23, 2021, Early Edge presented “Best Practices for Dual Language and English Learners PreK-3rd Grade During COVID-19 and Beyond” at the CABE 2021 Virtual Annual Conference.
 - Over two hundred California educators attended the session, and several expressed an interest in joining the Practitioner Group as part of the Emerging Bilingual Collaborative (EBC) project.
- Carolyne Crolotte and Policy Analyst Anna Ioakimedes wrote *Supporting Dual Language Learners is Crucial for Equity in California*, in collaboration with Giselle Navarro-Cruz, Assistant Professor at Cal Poly Pomona. The article was published in the March issue of the [CABE 2021 Edition Multilingual Educator Magazine](#).

Partnerships and Events

- On February 11, 2021, Executive Director Patricia Lozano participated in the virtual panel discussion, [Improving a Child's Education Journey: A Conversation about K-12 Policy & Early Learning in CA](#), hosted by the CDE Foundation and Foresight Law + Policy.
 - The event introduced a new research report, [Building a Coherent P-12 Education System in California](#), and featured a discussion on strategies necessary to improve Early Learning and provide a better start for kids in their education journey.
- On February 11, 2021, Early Edge supported two [Early Learning Listening Sessions](#) with The Education Trust-West (ETW) which was developed in order to hear directly from educators to better understand their experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic and their needs going forward.
 - Early Edge shared ETW's [findings](#) from Early Learning educators with our audiences on our website and in our newsletter.
- Hosted the [Early Edge California Advisory Board](#) members in a virtual meeting in February 2021 to share highlights of the organization's accomplishments and discuss high-level priorities and goals for the coming year.
- On March 25, 2021, Executive Director Patricia Lozano appeared on [CDE Foundation's Podcast "Lunch Bites"](#) to share about her professional journey within the Early Learning sphere and further discuss the recent report [Building a Coherent P-12 Education System in California](#).

Connecting Policy to Practice

- Created a new [Advisory Group](#) page on the Early Edge California website, highlighting the work across the Early Learning Educator, Parent, FFN, and Local Educational Agencies (LEA) Professional Learning Community (PLC) Advisory groups.
- On February 24, 2020, Early Edge hosted the first Family, Friend, and Neighbor ([FFN](#)) [Workgroup Meeting](#).
 - The FFN Workgroup is designed to create a space to bring together agencies from across the state that support FFN providers; to reflect upon the Master Plan for Early Learning and Care (MPELC) recommendations relevant to FFNs; and to provide guidance in the development and prioritization of action plans to implement those recommendations.
- In early 2021, Early Edge hosted meetings for its [Educator and Parent Advisory Groups](#):
 - Advisory Group members learned about updates on the Master Plan for Early Learning and Care (MPELC) and related legislation, Dual Language Learner (DLL) identification and related legislation, and shared their challenges associated with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

- The LEA PLC has met monthly over the course of the first quarter of 2021.
 - The LEA PLC has focused much of its discussions on school reopening and how those plans have impacted their districts and programs. The members worked with Early Edge to draft a letter of challenges that they are experiencing due to the impact of pandemic and shared those challenges in a meeting with the California Department of Finance. The group has also been kept updated about Early Edge's priority bills, AB 22 (McCarty), SB 50 (Limón), and AB 1363 (Rivas) and provides feedback on how those bills would impact their districts and programs.

Organizational Development and Capacity Building

- In January 2021, Early Edge officially welcomed and onboarded three new staff members.
 - [Kelly Reynolds](#) Senior Policy Analyst.
 - [Edith Esparza](#) Communications Associate.
 - [Dalila Valdez Renteria](#) Administrative and Project Coordinator.
- In March 2021, Early Edge hosted a kickoff call with Gina Airey Consulting to officially launch the strategic planning process with the Early Edge team.

COVID-19 Response

Since March 2020, Early Edge California has been committed to supporting the Early Learning community through the difficulties that have resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic and continue these efforts through 2021:

- Continued to raise awareness for the [COVID-19 resources](#) on our website through targeted campaigns on our social media channels.
- Hosted meetings in English and Spanish with our Family Child Care (FCC) and FFN advisory group members to hear their feedback on barriers to obtaining a COVID-19 vaccine in February 2021.

Media Mentions

- *EdSource*: [What happens to children who missed kindergarten during Covid-19 crisis](#) January 8, 2021.
- *EdSource*: [In the right direction? Perspectives on Gov. Newsom's education budget](#), January 13, 2021.
- *LAist*: [California Budget Proposal Expands Transitional Kindergarten, But Does Little to Support Child Care Industry In Crisis](#), January 28, 2021.

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>