

Accomplishments

Third Quarter 2021

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

State-Level Advocacy

AB 1363 - Identifying & Supporting Dual Language Learners in California's Early Learning System

Early Edge California is proud to co-sponsor AB 1363 (Rivas) to develop a standard process, starting with the California State Preschool Program (CSPP), for providers to identify the Dual Language Learners (DLLs) they enroll and serve, and require providers, through contract requirements, to report key information about DLLs that inform future policy and program decisions, such as ensuring that Early Learning professionals receive the training to support this significant portion of California's children.

On October 5, 2021, Governor Gavin Newsom signed AB 1363 into law at Sunset Elementary School in Fresno. Early Edge released a joint [statement](#) with the bill's author and fellow co-sponsors about how this historic decision will support Dual Language Learners. AB 1363 was a priority bill for the Legislative Women's Caucus.

Universal Transitional Kindergarten

Early Edge California has advocated for Universal Transitional Kindergarten (UTK) to be available for all four-year-olds across California. During this Third Quarter, we have celebrated the monumental moment of UTK being included in the State's Budget. The state's new \$2.7 billion TK program will be phased in, beginning in 2022. Early Edge will continue partnering with Early Learning stakeholders across the state to support the successful implementation of Universal Transitional Kindergarten.

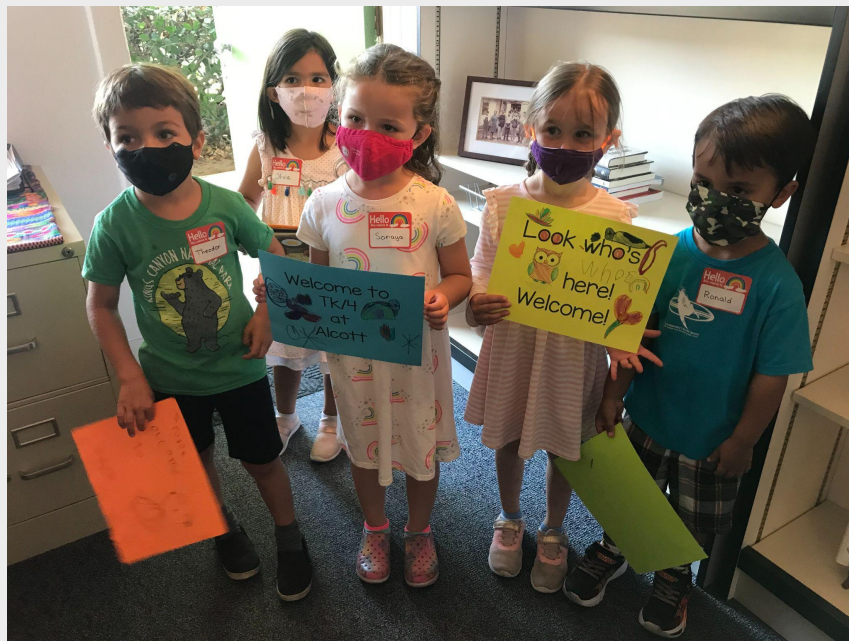
On July 13, 2021, Early Edge released a [joint statement](#) with our partners: Kidango, California School Employees Association, and San Diego Unified School District to celebrate the tremendous investment in California's Early Learning and Care System.

"We played a part in so much of what was mentioned in the budget signing, especially the expansion of Transitional Kindergarten."

— Anna Ioakimedes,
Policy Analyst



Early Edge joined forces with San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) to host the webinar: [*An Overview of San Diego Unified's Co-Teaching Model: An Option for TK Implementation*](#). This webinar provided an overview of the co-teaching model at SDUSD and included interviews and panel discussions with teachers, administrators, and district personnel.



On September 24th, Senior Policy Analyst, Kelly Reynolds, represented Early Edge at [an event](#) hosted by San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) to share its successes and experiences with Early Learning as part of its Universal Transitional Kindergarten (UTK) program implementation.



During the roundtable discussion, [Universal Transitional Kindergarten: What parents need to know](#), hosted by *EdSource*, Early Edge Executive Director Patricia Lozano joined a panel of providers, advocates, and policymakers to explore the importance and impact of early education and how TK fits into the journey between Pre-K and kindergarten.

Supporting Dual Language Learners (DLL)

- Early Edge continued to co-host the First 5 California DLL Pilot Community of Practice Meetings. During these meetings we shared lessons learned, resources, and policy implications to the broader Early Learning field.
- Early Edge partnered with Advancement Project California in hosting the DLL Master Plan Field Building Meeting Series, which was facilitated by the Glen Price Group. The first two meetings were held in September and participants reviewed the Master Plan for Early Learning and Care (MPELC) DLL Recommendations and determined the priority goals and objectives for the next two years.
- Early Edge prepared and disseminated a [“lessons learned” document](#), highlighting the key takeaways from the DLL/EL PreK-3rd COVID-19 Learning Community meeting series that occurred during the 2020-2021 school year.
- Early Edge’s Director of Dual Language Learner (DLL) Programs, Carolyne Crolotte, presented as part of the [Early Efforts: Supporting the Literacy of Young Children](#) panel with the Hunt Institute alongside leaders from innovative literacy initiatives including Kristi Yamaguchi (Founder, Always Dream, Olympic Gold Medalist), Kyle Zimmer (President and Co-Founder, First Book), and Brian Gallagher (CEO, Reach Out and Read). During the discussion, the panelists explored how states can best support the literacy development of young learners.

Multilingual Learning Toolkit

Early Edge California and partners launched the [Multilingual Learning Toolkit](#), a brand new resource for educators and administrators supporting Multilingual Learners in PreK-3rd Grade.

In early September 2021, Early Edge and American Institutes of Research (AIR) finalized and distributed the [P-3 Multilingual Learning Toolkit Overview](#). The document shares the research-backed, asset-based foundational principles and instructional practices for practitioners to know in order to best support MLs and serves as the foundational content of the MLT website.

"I was so impressed with the teamwork on the Multilingual Toolkit Project! Everybody added their piece to this project and I was very pleased to see new team members take on major pieces of the MLT including the design of the overview document." — *Joanna Cole, Communications Director*

Once these strategies were established, Early Edge, in partnership with AIR and Multilingual Learner experts and professional development developers around the country, created the resources. In addition to curating more than 250 open source and practical resources geared specifically toward PreK-3rd grade practitioners, Early Edge partnered with experts to develop the following tools to create specific guidance for teachers, administrators and professional development (PD providers), and teacher education faculty—for use within their own context or setting:

- (3) [User Guides and \(1\) Reflection Tool](#)
- (30) [Strategy in Action](#) documents ("vignettes")
 - (10) Pre-K/Transitional Kindergarten (TK)
 - (10) Kindergarten-Grade 1
 - (10) Grades 2-3

Promotional Efforts

In September 2021, Early Edge hosted a special [virtual event](#), facilitated by Early Edge's Executive Director Patricia Lozano and Director of DLL Programs Carolyne Crolotte, that brought together teachers, administrators, experts, and other key stakeholders. Speakers included:

- Giannina Pérez (Senior Policy Advisor for Early Childhood in the Office of Governor Gavin Newsom),
- Sarah Neville-Morgan (Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction, Opportunities for All Branch, California Department of Education),
- Dr. Lisa White (early childhood researcher, American Institutes for Research (AIR)),
- Tontra Love (Transitional Kindergarten (TK) Coach and 2019-20 Teacher of the Year, Oakland Unified School District),

"We overcame the challenge of working with a very large and diverse group of stakeholders, in a virtual setting, during a pandemic. What we produced is a robust resource for the field that is now out there, and this is just the beginning! Thank you to the team, this was a group effort!" — *Trish Morrison, Project Manager*

- Dr. Mari Riojas-Cortez (Program Chair of Early Childhood Studies, California State University-Channel Islands (CSU-CI)).

Early Edge promoted both the September launch event and the new Toolkit site through featured posts and targeted campaigns on Early Edge's communication channels.

- Newsletter: 10,030 subscribers
- Twitter: 7,093 followers
- Facebook: 2,707 followers
- LinkedIn: 1,667 followers

In addition, we also produced two short videos:

- A [promotional video](#) focusing on why the Toolkit is critical for educators and administrators in supporting MLs, and
- A [how-to video](#) providing helpful navigation tips for the best user experience.

Below are the Toolkit site usage metrics to date:



Early Edge presented the Multilingual Toolkit at multiple community meetings, including the Californians Together Coalition Retreat on October 5, 2021, [UP-LIFT CA](#) Partnership Meeting on September 30, 2021, and a special briefing hosted for Early Edge's labor partners on August 27, 2021.

Connecting Policy to Practice

- In July 2021, Early Edge shared parent testimonials highlighting the benefits of Transitional Kindergarten (TK). In our [first blog](#), Ilesha Nettles, parent of Flowerr and Ahwaze, who have been enrolled in Compton Unified School District's TK program, shares the positive experiences her children have had. She plans to enroll her son Wyav in TK when he is eligible.
- Early Edge provided public comment during the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) meeting commending the Commission for its work to move towards a competency-based approach and develop Teaching Performance Assessments that support dual language programs and instruction. We encouraged the CTC to use a P-3 approach as it reviews pathways to TK and Pre-K credentials. We also asked to be included in stakeholder engagement opportunities as they review the TK credential. We look forward to next steps in this work.
- Early Edge continued to participate in the Early Childhood Policy Council (ECPC) meetings on [August 17th](#) and [August 25th](#).

Supporting Family, Friend, and Neighbor Providers



- In July, Early Edge California launched a new video series about Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) providers. In the first video, [*The Value of California's Family, Friend, and Neighbor Child Care Providers*](#) (514 views), we interviewed providers and the organizations, agencies, and school districts across the state that support these caregivers. The second video, [*Support Models in Family, Friend, and Neighbor Child Care*](#) (314 views), looks at how organizations are providing key support to family, friend, and neighbor child care providers. The National Women's Law Center (NWLC) shared both of these videos during their National FFN Meeting.
- Early Edge's [*FFN Workgroup*](#) convened on July 20th to review and discuss a draft letter which summarizes the final recommendations to implement elements of the Master Plan for Early Learning and Care related to FFN care.
- Early Edge created a landscape analysis of trainings and workshops available to FFN providers in California and shared this with stakeholders to help address any FFN training gaps.

Organizational Development and Capacity Building

- Early Edge is moving forward with our Strategic Planning efforts, supported by the Packard Organizational Effectiveness grant and a targeted grant from Sobrato Philanthropies. Our strategic planning committee met twice during the third quarter and we held three strategic planning meetings with the full team where we discussed our priorities moving forward and worked on creating an updated Theory of Change for Early Edge.
- Early Edge began developing a federal policy landscape map and evaluating possible federal policy strategy in partnership with The Raben Group.
- In an effort to increase our focus on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), our team participated in an Equity 101 training, conducted a content and messaging audit, and collected data from stakeholders via surveys regarding DEI across the organization. We will continue to work with consulting firm Liberation by Design through 2022 to further these efforts.
- Early Edge is expanding our team and adding a new position, Policy Analyst - Dual Language Learners. This individual will work closely with our Director of Dual Language Learner Programs and will focus on advancing Early Edge's policy and research agenda specifically related to DLLs.
- Team members at Early Edge participated in a variety of professional development workshops and trainings including: [ReFrame](#) Mentorship Summer Academy, *Managing to Save the World*; *Managing Projects*; *Equitable Hiring Practices*; *What's the Latest in Grant Writing*; and *Team-Care/Self-Care: Why it Matters* trainings.
- This quarter, Early Edge held our annual staff retreat which included 1:1 coaching sessions for all interested staff members provided by Gina Airey Consulting, Inc. During our staff retreat we reflected on our accomplishments and success over the past year, identified opportunities for self-care, and prepared the team for welcoming a new staff member.

COVID-19 Response

- Early Edge has compiled [key takeaways and summaries](#) from the California Department of Education's (CDE) recent Management Bulletins, the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) Child Care and Development Bulletins, and updates regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

Media Mentions

- *La Opinión*: [¿Cómo el preescolar gratuito ayudará a los niños y a sus familias en California?](#), June 28, 2021.
- *NBCNews*: [Many Spanish-speaking immigrant caregivers feel left out of child care relief efforts](#), July 14, 2021.
- *Bakersfield.com*: [School districts prepare for universal expansion of transitional kindergarten](#), July 26, 2021.
- *CBS - KPIX*: [Expansion of Transitional Kindergarten Could Present Problems for Some Parents](#), August 16, 2021.
- *ABC 10*: [Multilingual Learning Toolkit: A free resource for teachers to improve language equity in classrooms](#), September 2, 2021.
- *Univision 14 San Francisco*: [Multilingual Learning Toolkit: Educational Resources for Teachers and Parents](#), September 2, 2021.
- *KPCC/LAist*: [There's A New Virtual Library For California's Youngest Multilingual Learners](#), September 10, 2021.
- *Univision 34 Los Angeles*: [Substitute Teacher Shortage Growing in California: What's the Cause of This?](#) (Crece la escasez de maestros sustitutos en California: ¿A qué se debe esta situación?) September 10, 2021.

Summary of 2021 Resources:

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

Summary of our Resources 2021:

Q1: <https://earlyedgecalifornia.org/early-edge-california-resources-q1-2021/>

Q2: <https://earlyedgecalifornia.org/early-edge-california-resources-q2-2021/>