



Q1 2023: Quarterly Accomplishments Summary

[Early Edge California](#) is pleased to share highlights of our work from January through March 2023. These accomplishments would not have been possible without the generous support of our funders—thank you!

STATE-LEVEL ADVOCACY

2023 Sponsored Bills

AB 393 (Rivas): This year, Early Edge is proud to sponsor [Assembly Bill \(AB\) 393](#) alongside CABE and Californians Together to strengthen support for more Dual Language Learners (DLLs) in California’s Early Learning and Care system. Early Edge has been uplifting this critical legislation as it goes through the legislative process with a new webpage and lobbying for support. Most recently, AB 393 passed the Assembly Education Committee through unanimous consent. It now heads to the Assembly Appropriations Committee for a vote on May 19th.

AB 1192 (McCarty): This year, Early Edge is proud to sponsor Assembly Bill (AB) 1192 which will make policy changes to support quality and implementation of Transitional Kindergarten (TK). More specifically, this bill aims to address the implementation date deadline of the requirements for the lead teacher in a TK classroom to be responsive to staffing challenges, validates experience and builds in professional development requirements to help support the Early Learning expertise of the second adult in the TK classroom, and allows districts to expand TK to include children with birthdays between July and September ahead of the implementation schedule. This bill will have its first hearing in the Assembly Education Committee on April 26th.

2023 Supported Bills

Early Edge is supporting various partners in their proposed legislation. These include:

- [SB 380 \(Limón\)](#) - Early learning and care: rate reform.
- [SB 499 \(Menjívar\)](#) - Early childhood education facilities: school facilities: School Extreme Heat Action Plan Act of 2023.
- [SB 767 \(Rubio\)](#) - Elementary education: kindergarten.
- [AB 555 \(Carrillo\)](#) - California state preschool programs.
- [AB 596 \(Reyes\)](#) - Early learning and care: rate reform.
- [AB 679 \(Wicks\)](#) - Family childcare homes: meals: reimbursement rates.

- [AB 1127 \(Reyes\)](#) - Teachers: professional development: Bilingual Teacher Professional Development Program.

Visit the [Bills We Support page](#) on the Early Edge website to learn more about our supported bills.

Implementation of Successful Legislation

SB 1047 (Limón): Early Edge sponsored bill [Senate Bill \(SB\) 1047](#) went into effect on January 1st. SB 1047 increases efficiencies in the direct contracting Early Learning and Care system by removing barriers to serve more children in quality programs and strengthening the family child care system to give California's youngest learners a strong start.

AB 22 (McCarty): Early Edge sponsored bill [Assembly Bill \(AB\) 22](#) went into effect on January 1st. Last year, AB 22 was amended to reflect the inclusion of Universal Transitional Kindergarten (UTK) in the 2021-22 state budget and now focuses on ensuring that California collects the necessary student and workforce data to understand the impact of California's historic investment in UTK.

Additional TK/UPK implementation efforts:

- On January 4th, Early Edge partnered with Governor Gavin Newsom to present his [special video message](#) celebrating the expansion of TK to more children in 2023. The video recognizes the critical work of TK teachers and administrators and encourages families to enroll their child in the free, high-quality preschool program. The video has received a total of 1.8K views since its publication and is featured on the homepage of the [TKCalifornia](#) website.
- Early Edge has continued its [TK Expansion in Action blog series](#) in 2023 to support California's TK expansion which runs throughout the 2022-23 school year. In February, Early Edge published the [fifth blog](#) in the series, about supporting principal and site leadership understanding of young learners' needs at Alisal USD in Monterey County.
- In Q1, Early Edge supported the California Department of Education's (CDE) development of messaging strategies around Universal Prekindergarten (UPK) by advising and providing feedback on materials to engage teachers, administrators, and families. CDE's newly-developed resources to support UPK can be [found here](#).

AB 1363 (Rivas): Early Edge sponsored bill [Assembly Bill \(AB\) 1363](#) went into effect on January 1st. California State Preschool Programs (CSPPs) are now using the Dual Language Learner (DLL) identification process to better support DLL students. Early Edge continues to actively support the implementation of AB 1363 via the creation of a new video promoting the benefits of the DLL identification process to CSPP teachers and administrators.

State Budget Priority Advocacy

On January 10th, Governor Gavin Newsom announced his 2023-24 state budget proposal. Despite a multi-billion dollar budget shortfall, [Early Edge California commended Governor Newsom](#) for protecting Early Learning investments and remaining committed to universal Transitional Kindergarten (TK), providing every 4-year-old access to a high-quality pre-kindergarten experience.

Early Edge California in the Field

In March 2023, members of the Early Edge team including Patricia Lozano, Executive Director, Kelly Reynolds, Senior Policy Analyst, and Andrew Avila, Policy Analyst, visited Sacramento to meet with state legislators, particularly new members, to introduce Early Edge and share about our organizational and budget priorities. During this trip, Early Edge met with Senator Caroline Menjivar and Assemblymember Juan Carrillo. Our team also met with staff from Senator Nancy Skinner, Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, Assemblymember Corey Jackson, and the Assembly Budget Committee.

Key Meetings with Early Edge Participation

Early Childhood Policy Council (ECPC): During Q1, Early Edge staff participated in the ECPC meeting hosted on March 30th.

ECE Coalition Participation: During Q1, Early Edge staff participated in all ECE Coalition and Coalition Policy Committee meetings, which occur every two weeks. Early Edge has also met with members of the Legislature to uplift Coalition budget priorities, which are focused on increasing reimbursement rates by 25 percent, reforming our current reimbursement rate structure to cover the full cost of providing care, reimbursing providers based on enrollment rather than attendance, and waiving family fees.

California Department of Education's (CDE) Universal PreKindergarten (UPK) Mixed Delivery Quality and Access Workgroup: Early Edge staff attended the first meeting for the [CDE's UPK Mixed Delivery Quality and Access Workgroup](#) on January 26th and highlighted the importance of including guidance on how to work with Dual Language Learners when designing child-centered learning environments. Early Edge attended subsequent meetings on February 23rd and March 23rd. Early Edge's Director of Dual Language Learner (DLL) Programs, Carolyne Crolotte, will continue to lead Early Edge's participation in the Workgroup.

FEDERAL-LEVEL ADVOCACY

Federal Policy Agenda

In February 2023, Early Edge launched its [Federal Policy Agenda](#), which presents policies needed to ensure that all children receive high-quality, racially, ethnically, linguistically, and

culturally responsive early education, enter kindergarten ready to learn, and thrive through 3rd grade and beyond. Policy recommendations include: advancing funding for universal preschool and access to child care; identifying and supporting young Dual Language Learners (DLLs); increasing compensation and training for Early Learning and Care caregivers and teachers; and supporting Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) providers.

Early Edge California in the Field

In February 2023, Early Edge Executive Director Patricia Lozano [visited Washington D.C.](#), our nation's capital, where she engaged key Members of Congress and Administration officials to advocate for our country's youngest learners. During her trip, Patricia met with the Administration for Children and Families, the Department of Education, members of the California delegation, both House and Senate Democratic leadership, and national partners.

SUPPORTING DUAL LANGUAGE LEARNERS (DLLs)

DLL Field Building

The DLL Master Plan Advocates, which includes Early Edge, onboarded three new partner organizations: Abriendo Puertas, Black Californians United for Early Care & Education, and First 5 LA. To maintain collective momentum and support the capacity of existing and new partners to participate in moving the DLL Action Plan priorities forward, the project has expanded to include a Family Engagement Committee and a Communications and Practitioners Committee that will be led by two existing partner organization co-leads. These two committees will help elevate stakeholder engagement and voice.

DLL Peer Learning Community (PLC)

Early Edge has joined a nine month national DLL PLC hosted by the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) and the Migration Policy Institute (MPI), and we are leading the California cohort. Within the PLC, Early Edge will engage various states and partners and collaborate to self-identify a catalyst for action that can lead to improved policies and systems for DLLs. The California PLC team currently consists of the California Department of Education, First 5 LA, First 5 California, Los Angeles County Office of Education, Fresno Unified School District, Californians Together, and Quality Start LA. The CA PLC is currently developing its state goals to best support DLLs, which include a focus on 1) DLL identification and 2) educator training and preparation.

Multilingual Learning Toolkit

On March 21st, Early Edge and partners [announced new enhancements](#) to the Multilingual Learning Toolkit. Updates included: a bilingual program guide; six sample lesson plans and

resource walks; four video guides for practitioners; updates to the Building Educators' Capacity instructional topic area, and 34 new resources from our partners at SEAL (Sobrato Early Academic Language).

Conference Presentations in Support of DLLs

In Q1, members of the Early Edge team including Luis João Molina, Policy Analyst of DLLs, presented at three conferences to increase awareness and usage of the Multilingual Learning Toolkit. Conferences included:

- **Focus on Results 2023** by the California Association of Latino Superintendents and Administrators (CALSA) on January 27th in Monterey Bay.
- **36th Annual Conference for Pre-K, TK, Kindergarten, and First Grade Educators** by the Southern California Kindergarten Conference, Inc. on February 24th in Pasadena, CA.
- **CABE 2023** by the California Association for Bilingual Education (CABE) on March 23rd in Long Beach, CA.

SUPPORTING FAMILY, FRIEND, AND NEIGHBOR (FFN) PROVIDERS

FFN Workgroup

Early Edge hosted a meeting with the FFN Workgroup on March 23rd. The meeting kicked off with an open discussion about what challenges, opportunities, and triumphs were coming up for them recently in their work to support FFNs. Early Edge staff then provided an update on our new Leading from Home program and asked Workgroup members for their feedback and insight on how to best outreach and promote to FFNs. The final part of the meeting was dedicated to continuing a discussion started in a previous meeting on barriers FFNs face in accessing subsidies. Early Edge is working with the FFN Workgroup on a second policy brief focused on the barriers to FFNs accessing subsidies and is digging into further research to support this brief based on this conversation.

Voices from Home

In Q1, Early Edge became a member of national organization Home Grown's "Voices from Home" program, which supports organizations in their communications work to uplift home-based child care providers. The program will support Early Edge's communications efforts in uplifting the experiences and needs of FFN providers, and policy solutions to best support them. Monthly Community of Practice meetings hosted by Home Grown provide members with a space to learn and share about their communications efforts to support home-based providers and collaborate on developing strategic and unified messaging around home-based child care.

Leading from Home

[Leading from Home](#) is a program originally created by Home Grown that brings home-based child care provider leaders together to learn and share experiences on leadership and advocacy. In Q1, Early Edge worked on replicating this program in California to develop a statewide cohort of Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN), or license-exempt, caregivers. The Leading from Home program launched on April 3rd. Recruitment for the Leading from Home program will continue through May 31st.

CONNECTING POLICY TO PRACTICE

Advisory Group Leadership Council

On January 30th, Early Edge's Advisory Group Leadership Council convened its [first meeting of the year](#), its fourth for the Council since its formation last year. Early Edge kicked off the virtual meeting by sharing key takeaways from Governor Newsom's 2023-24 budget proposal along with timely policy updates, providing an opportunity for ambassadors to ask questions or to learn more about the overall process. The meeting then focused on facilitated group discussions to learn about the most pressing issues or concerns coming up for ambassadors, and to receive guidance on topics to discuss with all three of our stakeholder advisory groups: Educator, Parent, and Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN).

Early Learning Educator Advisory Group

On February 18th, Early Edge hosted a virtual meeting for the Early Learning Educator Advisory Group members in the Fresno area. Participants learned timely and relevant updates since the last meeting in November 2022 through a presentation from the team, including an overview of the Early Learning and Care investments included in Governor Newsom's budget proposal along with Early Edge's policy and legislative priorities for the year. The discussion focused on gaining feedback from participants as we prepare for in-person meetings this year, getting input from the group on how to plan a smooth transition and identifying potential barriers for members. Early Edge plans to host in-person meetings with the other participants from Los Angeles and the Bay Area.

Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) Advisory Group

In March 2023, Early Edge California hosted two meetings for the FFN Advisory Groups, one for the English group on March 17th and another for the Spanish group on March 20th. Items discussed included the Leading from Home opportunity and a facilitated discussion on their experiences as FFNs. During the call, FFNs shared their day-to-day experiences in the field and the support and resources they need to fulfill their role. Early Edge is currently reviewing their responses and editing them into a video to share with the field. FFNs also expressed interest

and excitement about the Leading from Home opportunity to be able to develop their advocacy skills and were looking forward to submitting an application.

Local Educational Agencies Professional Learning Community (LEA PLC)

In Q1 2023, the LEA PLC met twice on January 13th and February 10th providing a space for Early Learning directors to collaborate and share best practices for running Transitional Kindergarten (TK), California State Preschool Programs (CSPPs), and other Early Learning programs.

MEDIA MENTIONS

- 1/12/23: [Newsom's 2023-24 budget takes major steps in child care, supplemental security income](#) (State of Reform)
 - 1/13/23: [WHAT THEY'RE SAYING: Governor Newsom's Budget Prioritizes California's Values](#) (Governor Newsom's Press Office)
 - 1/17/23: [Reactions to the governor's early education budget proposals](#) (EdSource)
 - 2/28/23: [Universal Preschool's Off to a Bumpy Start, but East San José Is Seeing Success. Here's Why](#) (KQED)
 - 3/1/23: [Leading the Way with Young Learners](#) (Language Magazine)
 - 3/20/23: [Coming Together: Identifying Dual Language Learner Competencies for Early Childhood Educators](#) (CABE's Multilingual Educator Magazine, 2023 Edition)
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NEW TEAM MEMBERS

On March 13th, Early Edge was thrilled to introduce and welcome two new [team members](#) to the organization. Andrew Avila joined as a Policy Analyst and Nichole Alvarez as an Administrative and Project Coordinator.

SUMMARY OF 2023 RESOURCES

- [Q1 2023: Early Edge California Resources](#)