

WHO WE ARE

Early Edge California is a nonprofit organization working to advance policy changes and investments that will expand access to high-quality Early Learning and Care programs. Our work is guided by the vision that all children birth to age 8 should receive high-quality, racially, ethnically, linguistically, and culturally responsive early education, enter Kindergarten ready to learn, and thrive through 3rd grade and beyond.

Since 2003, Early Edge has been a leader in Early Learning and Care policy in California, advocating for: high-quality universal preschool (including Transitional Kindergarten); an asset-based approach to identifying and supporting Dual Language Learners (DLLs); promoting investment in the professional development, training, and compensation of Early Learning and Care teachers and caregivers; supporting informal care providers, such as Family, Friend, and Neighbors (FFNs); and expanded access to care for infants and toddlers. Our policy priorities are informed by those community and stakeholder voices most impacted.

OUR PRIORITY AREAS



Advocating for Universal Preschool and Child Care to Support a High-quality Mixed-Delivery System



Supporting Dual Language Learners (DLLs)



Increasing Compensation and Training for Early Learning and Care Teachers and Caregivers

OUR RECENT POLICY SUCCESSES

Universal Preschool for all California 4-year-olds through the expansion of Transitional Kindergarten:

- Based on legislation of which Early Edge was the lead sponsor, in the 2021-22 State Budget, California made history by expanding California's **Transitional Kindergarten (TK)** program to serve all 4-year-olds, which ensures all families have access to at least one-year of free preschool prior to starting Kindergarten. Once implemented, the TK program will have close to 400,000 slots available for California's children, making it the largest program in the nation. To support successful TK implementation, Early Edge co-sponsored **AB 22** that ensures California collects student data in TK classrooms.

DLL Identification:

- In 2021, Early Edge co-sponsored legislation, **AB 1363**, making California the first state in the nation to establish an asset-based process to identify DLLs in State Preschool Programs. In 2023, Early Edge co-sponsored legislation, **AB 393**, expanding asset-based DLL identification to general child care programs (CCTR) and the Migrant Child Care Program (CMIG).

Strengthening California's Mixed-Delivery Early Learning and Care System:

- In 2022, Early Edge co-sponsored legislation, **SB 1047**, making it easier for families to enroll in and retain access to subsidized child care and preschool while helping providers by streamlining the enrollment process.

DLL-Specific Professional Development:

- In 2018, Early Edge and key partners helped secure **\$5 million** in the state budget to provide DLL-specific professional development to teachers.

OUR KEY RESOURCES

earlyedgecalifornia.org | multilingualllearningtoolkit.org | tkcalifornia.org



CONNECT WITH US

On issues related to Early Learning and Care including Transitional Kindergarten, Dual Language Learners, and Early Learning educators and caregivers:

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