



In October 2023, Early Edge California hosted a delegation of Early Learning champions and leaders from California for its Educational Early Learning Tour. The tour was a cross-state learning experience in Boston and New Jersey to learn about how districts in those localities are successfully providing universal preschool within a mixed-delivery system. The delegation included State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond, Assembly members Kevin McCarty, Al Muratsuchi, and Luz Rivas, representatives from the Office of Governor Gavin Newsom, California Department of Education, and California Department of Social Services, labor representatives from the California Teachers Association, California School Employees Association, and SEIU Local 99, representatives from Heising-Simons Foundation, First 5 LA, and CSULA, and Early Learning and Care advocates from Child Care Resource Center, Learning Policy Institute, and UNITE-LA.

The Tour Included:

- Site visits to high-quality programs at Boston Public Schools (MA) and Rahway Public Schools (NJ) that showcased how these districts are implementing universal access to high-quality curriculum for three- and four-year-olds, providing educators with professional development and coaching to ensure consistent supports, and aligning programs across different settings, including parochial schools, child care centers, and public schools.
- Panel discussions with local officials and experts highlighting successes, challenges, and lessons learned in Boston Public Schools and New Jersey universal preschool programs.
- Opportunities for California stakeholders to reflect upon their learnings and identify potential best practices to bring back to California.



"We started the Educational Early Learning Tours a few years ago, and I have been fortunate to lead three of these amazing learning experiences. I have learned so much from interacting with young learners, staff, and local experts in other states. It was our honor to have so many passionate Early Learning champions join us for this year's tour. We all are working towards providing the best start for our young children, and it was so inspiring to learn alongside them all."

—Patricia Lozano, Executive Director, Early Edge California

Watch an overview of the Early Learning Tour: youtu.be/KOIGPAnaPvc

The tour, sponsored by the [Heising-Simons Foundation](#) and [First 5 LA](#), was a special opportunity for our state's leaders to build their knowledge, and reinforced their commitment to strengthening the Early Learning experiences of children in our state.