

2024 Mid-Year Review

Report



Early Edge California



THANK YOU!

Early Edge California is pleased to share some top highlights of our work from **January through June 2024**. These accomplishments would not have been possible without the generous support of our funders—thank you!






NEW INITIATIVES



Supporting Infant & Toddler Care



Early Edge's Newest Priority Area: Birth to Three



EARLY EDGE CALIFORNIA

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ABOUT US OUR PRIORITIES RESOURCES NEWS AND EVENTS BILLS WE SUPPORT RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES

Increasing Access to High-quality Early Learning and Care for Infants and Toddlers

What would it look like if quality child care was accessible and affordable for the family of every infant and toddler in California?

Not only would our youngest children have the developmental support they need, parents wouldn't have to leave their jobs, businesses would have a reliable workforce, and families could afford to stay in the state. **Child care impacts every Californian and their future.** Guaranteeing families access to child care isn't optional, it's a critical part of ensuring that Californians can live, work, and raise families in the state they love.

As Early Edge continues to focus on supporting the successful implementation of Transitional Kindergarten, we are also looking at new ways to strengthen the mixed-delivery system as a whole to support our youngest learners and the adults who care for them. In this burgeoning priority area, the organization will focus on supporting children, ages **birth to three years (B-3)**, their families, and the Early Learning workforce that supports them.

[Visit the Birth to Three page >](#)

Los Angeles County's Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education (OAECE)

Early Care and Education Blueprint for Infant/Toddler Care:

Recommendations to Strengthen the Child Care System for LA County's Youngest Children

The period between birth and age three is critical for child development. During this time, 80 percent of brain development occurs and the foundations for lifelong health, well-being, and success during a child's life are established. Although a parent is a child's first and most important teacher, families often need additional support from early care and education (ECE) providers during these critical years.



According to the 2022 Los Angeles County ECE Needs Assessment, Los Angeles County is home to more than 484,000 infants and toddlers and only has licensed capacity through centers and family child care homes to serve 4 percent of children under 24 months. The lack of access to affordable, quality infant and toddler ECE in Los Angeles County has been a crisis for decades. The Early Care and Education Blueprint for Infant/Toddler Care is a roadmap to fortify the Child Care System for LA County's Youngest Children.

During Q1, Early Edge partnered with the **LA County's OAECE** to inform the development of recommendations for the County's Blueprint for Infant and Toddler Care. Early Edge uplifted several recommendations included in the [County's final document](#).



#WeLoveLittles Social Media Campaign



Early Edge launched its 7-week digital campaign **#WeLoveLittles** on Valentine's Day to celebrate children, ages birth to three. The campaign shone a light on infants and toddlers, and the support they need to learn and develop by sharing feel-good moments and interactions between littles and their caregivers via a [video series](#), quotes from parents and caregivers, and key facts. The video series garnered **over 21.5K views** across our social media channels and paid ad efforts.



Early Edge California's Vision for a Robust Mixed-Delivery System Serving Children from Birth to Age 5



In March, Early Edge released a [vision document](#) about infant and toddler care in our state, *Early Edge California's Vision for a Robust Mixed-Delivery System Serving Children from Birth to Age 5*. The piece provides background on California's mixed-delivery system and the opportunities that our state has to ensure the system is well-funded and equipped to serve more young children, especially infants and toddlers.





Infant and Toddler Workgroup

On **May 24th**, Early Edge convened statewide and Los Angeles-county focused stakeholders meeting to discuss the new [*Blueprint for Increasing Access to Infant & Toddler Care*](#).

Issues discussed included capacity & infrastructure, access to affordable care, program operations, workforce compensation, and workforce pathways and qualifications.

In the coming months, Early Edge plans to hold additional meetings with this group to further explore and identify key actions that can be taken around the Blueprint.

Listening Sessions

During the winter and spring, Early Edge convened educators, caregivers, and parents in our advisory groups and Leading from Home cohort to better understand their experiences supporting children, ages birth through 3 years, and what challenges and opportunities they see in increasing access to infant and toddler care in California. We gathered members' feedback into the April blog, [*Key Takeaways from Early Edge's Advisory Groups on Increasing Access to Care for Children Birth-3*](#), that shared the major themes surfacing across the groups.

In June, Early Edge also engaged its [Leadership Council](#), comprised of members from our parent, educator, and FFN provider advisory groups, in a special listening session to inform the development of core messaging for our communications efforts around infants and toddlers. Members weighed in through a series of questions in group discussion.





SUPPORTING DUAL LANGUAGE LEARNERS (DLLS)



DLL Federal Recommendations Webinar



The graphic features logos for Early Edge California, Children's Equity Project, and UnidosUS at the top. Below the logos is a blue banner with the title 'IMMEDIATE ACTIONS THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION CAN TAKE FOR DLLS'. A red play button icon is overlaid on a photo of a teacher and a young child working at a table. To the right of the photo, the word 'WELCOME' is written in large blue letters, and a teal button at the bottom contains the date 'APRIL 30, 2024'.

On **April 30th**, Early Edge co-hosted a [federal webinar](#) alongside UnidosUS, The Children's Equity Project, and DLL policy experts focused on uplifting our recently released federal policy recommendations, [Immediate Actions the Biden Administration Can Take For DLLs](#), and brights spots across the country through a presentation and panel discussion. We had **186 webinar registrants** and received **315+ views** on our webinar recording.



DLL Master Plan Advocates Project

[Learn more](#) about the project's origin, development, and the history of its efforts to support DLL children.

The DLL Master Plan Advocates continue to meet in moving the DLL Action Plan priorities forward:

- The group members hosted two Practitioner Committee meetings, on **February 15th** and **March 14th**, where they heard directly from practitioners to inform their joint advocacy efforts. They met with Transitional Kindergarten (TK) and California State Preschool Program (CSPP) teachers and administrators from across the state to learn about their successes and challenges in supporting DLL children and families.



- On **April 26th**, Early Edge California, Catalyst California, and UNITE-LA co-hosted the DLL Master Plan Advocates to [tour various Early Learning programs](#), including infant and toddler programs, in the Long Beach Unified School District as well as the Educare Los Angeles at Long Beach campus.



New Blog Series: Supporting DLLs in CSPP

In June, Early Edge and its partners in the Dual Language Learner Master Plan Advocates, launched a new, [4-part blog series](#) to uplift the areas of need, highlight opportunities for growth, and share solutions and resources in supporting DLLs in CSPP, which were identified during recent listening sessions with CSPP teachers and administrators from across the state.



The series was uplifted by **New America** in its English Learner Updates newsletter.



NEW Blog Series: Supporting Dual Language Learners in California's State Preschool Program



National Bilingual/Multilingual Learner Advocacy Month



In celebration of **National Bilingual / Multilingual Learner Advocacy Month** in April and in promotion of the Multilingual Learning Toolkit website, we asked bilingual / multilingual Early Edge staff to share why speaking more than one language is important to them!

[Watch the video >](#)

Trish is speaking Filipino!

Hello, my name is Trish! I'm the Development and Senior Project Manager at Early Edge. I can speak Filipino and English. I was born in Manila, Philippines. Filipino is important to me because it's the language of my family, my culture, and my heritage."



Multilingual Learning Toolkit

Our article, [One-Click Away: Multilingual Learning Toolkit](#), which introduces the [Multilingual Learning Toolkit](#) website and how it is being used at Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) to support their PreK-K multilingual children, was featured in California Association for Bilingual Education's (CABE) **February 2024 Edition** of the Multilingual Educator Magazine (pages 102-103).

On **May 31st**, Early Edge announced a [new resource](#) for institutes of higher education (IHE) faculty and teacher educators to support adding content specific to supporting Multilingual Learners into their coursework. Strategies, resources, videos, and instructional content from the Multilingual Learning Toolkit are now available on Canvas, a web-based learning management system.



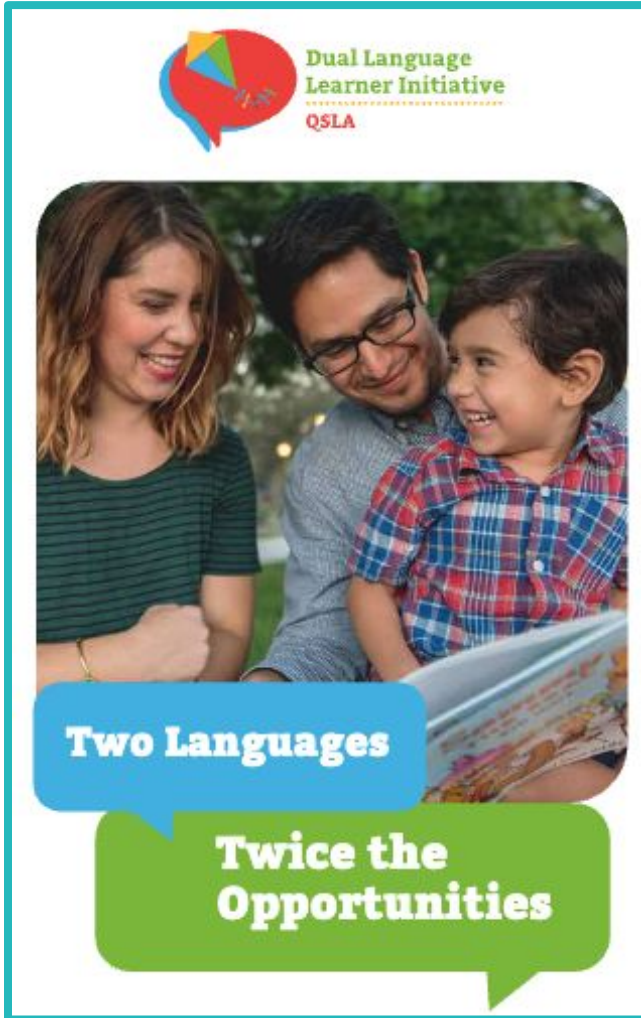
MULTILINGUAL Learning Toolkit
Resources for supporting PreK-3rd multilingual children

NEW!

Canvas Course Shells for IHE Faculty / Teacher Educators



“Two Languages, Twice the Opportunities” Campaign



Early Edge has partnered with **First 5 Los Angeles** and **Quality Start Los Angeles’s (QSLA) Dual Language Learner Initiative** to support the promotion of their [“Two Languages, Twice the Opportunities” campaign](#). Promotional coverage for the campaign came from our Executive Director, Patricia Lozano, and our Director of Policy, Carlyne Crolotte, which included:

- 4/2/24 | Bilingual Generations’ [“Talking to Grandma” podcast episode](#)
- 4/25/24 | First 5 LA’s article, [Media Campaign to Promote Bilingualism Adds Four New Languages](#)
- 4/30/24 | KWHY-TV’s interview, [The Benefits of Bilingualism for Young Children](#)
- 6/14/24 | Telemundo 52 Acceso Total’s segment, [How to Preserve Children’s Home Language](#)





SUPPORTING FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND NEIGHBORS (FFNS)



FFN Workgroup & New FFN Policy Brief

In April, Early Edge and partners released a [new policy brief](#), *Increasing Access to Family, Friend, And Neighbor Caregiver Wages through California's Child Care Subsidy System*,

The brief highlights the important role of Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) caregivers, explores the barriers to child care subsidies, and provides recommendations on how to better support FFN caregivers in obtaining them.

Since its publication, the report has received **1,178 pageviews** and was the feature article in [The Hechinger Report's Early Childhood Newsletter](#) on **May 15th**.



The image shows the cover of a policy brief report. At the top, there are logos for 'EARLY EDGE CALIFORNIA' with the tagline 'Visión y Compromiso™', 'early education services SAN JOSE PUBLIC LIBRARY', and 'Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County'. Below the logos is a photograph of a woman with dark curly hair, wearing an orange sweater, sitting at a table with two young children. They are all looking at a book or document on the table. The woman is pointing at something in the book. The background is a bright, indoor setting with a window and a lamp.

NEW Policy Brief: *Increasing Access to Family, Friend, and Neighbor Caregiver Wages through California's Child Care Subsidy System*



California Leading from Home

Early Edge's [California Leading from Home \(LFH\) program](#) seeks to support FFN caregivers in developing their advocacy skills and establishing grassroots support networks within their communities. The [2023-24 cohort](#) consists of 10 FFN caregivers from across the state. Read the recap of each Community of Practice (CoP):

- [CoP #6: January 2024](#)
- [CoP #7: February 2024](#)
- [CoP #8: March 2024](#)
- [CoP #9: April 2024](#) (rescheduled to May)
- [CoP #10: May 2024](#)
- [CoP #11: June 2024](#)

This year, Early Edge continued the series, "I'm an FFN Provider," which introduced the 2023-24 California LFH cohort members and celebrated their work as FFN providers. This series wrapped up in May with **+2.6K in social media impressions** and featured quotes from these FFNs sharing their passion for providing care to children and families in California.



| Conoce a Lorena Villalvazo de Grajeda



Para mi es muy importante el cuidado FFN, porque los papás nos sentimos más seguros cuando los niños son cuidados por personas de mucha confianza, pues es muy importante que ellos estén bien en todos los sentidos.



Lorena es una proveedora FFN en Knights Landing y cuida a su nieto de 2 años, su sobrino de 2 años y su sobrina de 4 años.



California Leading from Home: Advocacy Day

On **June 26th**, FFN caregivers from the California Leading from Home Program [participated in an advocacy day](#) in the state capitol.

This event marked a significant milestone, **as it was the first experience in formal advocacy for these caregivers**. They met with legislative and committee offices of the California State Legislature in Sacramento to advocate for issues affecting the care and services they provide to their communities and to offer recommendations on how FFN caregivers can be better supported through policy.



Watch our recap videos in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) for an overview of the California Leading From Home Advocacy Day.





EARLY EDGE IN THE FIELD



2023 Educational Early Learning Tour: An Overview



On **March 19th**, Early Edge gathered experts from California and across the country for a [legislative briefing](#) in the state capitol, sponsored by Assemblymembers Al Muratsuchi, Luz Rivas, and Kevin McCarty, to share highlights from our [2023 Educational Early Learning Tour](#), which visited UPK programs in Boston and New Jersey.



The briefing featured remarks from Early Edge's Executive Director, **Patricia Lozano**, Assemblymembers **Al Muratsuchi** and **Luz Rivas**, and a robust panel discussion moderated by Patricia Lozano, featuring **TeeAra Dias**, Interim Executive Director of Early Childhood, Boston Public Schools, **Sarah Neville-Morgan**, Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction, California Department of Education, **Cynthia Rice**, formerly of Advocates for Children of New Jersey, and **Jennifer Troia**, Chief Deputy Director, California Department of Social Services.



PRESENTATIONS IN THE FIELD

- 1/9/24-1/11/24 | **National Women's Law Center's Child Care Advocates Conference** (Washington D.C.)
- 2/1/24 | **EveryChild California's UPK-UTK Leadership Symposium** (Garden Grove, CA)
- 2/23/24 | **California Association for Bilingual Education's (CABE) 2024 Conference** (Anaheim, CA)
- April 2024 | **2024 World Forum** (Vancouver, BC)
- 6/27/24 | **UNIDOS US Conference** (Norwalk, CA)



Key Meetings with Early Edge Participation

LAUSD Board Committee on Children and Families in Early Education

Early Edge's Director of Policy joined final meetings for the 2023-24 academic year as an external member of the committee on [January 18th](#), April 4th, and May 21st.

ECE Coalition

During Q1-Q2, Early Edge staff participated in the ECE Coalition and Coalition Policy Committee biweekly meetings to develop and discuss Coalition state budget priorities, strategy, and advocacy efforts.

UPK Mixed Delivery Quality and Access Workgroup

On **February 2nd**, Early Edge's Director of Policy [joined the final meeting](#) as a Workgroup member where members celebrated Black History Month & heard a presentation from Glen Price Group around updates to the Workgroup's report. You can access the final report, released in April, [here](#).



Consortium for Multilingual Learner Success

CONSORTIUM FOR ENGLISH LEARNER SUCCESS

March 19th at 10 am

Panel:

Transitional Kindergarten Expansion in Support of Dual Language Learners

In the 2022-2023 school year, California embarked on the implementation of transitional kindergarten (TK), initiating a comprehensive four-year expansion set to conclude in the 2025-2026 school year. This progression will extend TK enrollment eligibility to all children turning four by September 1st. Join us for an engaging panel discussion focused on dual language learners and transitional kindergarten, featuring unique insights from Anya Hurwitz, Executive Director at SEAL, and Liz Alvarado, Senior Policy Associate at Californians Together. The conversation will touch on the benefits and challenges of expansion, bilingual teacher programs, and the future of TK programs.

MEET THE SPEAKERS

REGISTER
HERE!
bit.ly/March_2024



Moderator

Carolyne Crolotte
Director of DLL Programs
Early Edge



Speaker

Dr. Anya Hurwitz
Executive Director
SEAL



Speaker

Dr. Liz Alvarado
Senior Policy Associate, DLL
Californians Together



On **March 19th**, our Director of Policy, Carolyne Crolotte, led a discussion at the Consortium for Multilingual Learner Success March 2024 Convening with panelists Dr. Anya Hurwitz, Executive Director at Sobrato Early Academic Language (SEAL), and Dr. Liz Alvarado, Senior Policy Associate of DLLs at Californians Together.

The discussion focused on Transitional Kindergarten (TK) expansion as an opportunity to support DLLs, challenges, and opportunities, and touched on topics such as dual language program expansion and bilingual teacher preparation programs.





LEGISLATIVE WINS & UPDATES



AB 2268 (Muratsuchi) was signed by Governor Newsom on June 14th!

AB 2268 has gone into immediate effect to exempt Transitional Kindergarten (TK) students from taking the English Language Proficiency Assessment of California (ELPAC) in the 2024-25 school year. [Read Our Statement >](#)

This year, Early Edge was proud to sponsor Assembly Bill (AB) 2268 alongside [Californians Together](#) and [California Association for Bilingual Education \(CABE\)](#) to ensure that the language proficiency of the state's youngest emerging bilingual students are not evaluated with developmentally inappropriate assessments that could harm their academic and life trajectories.

- While the California Department of Education (CDE) develops its official guidance, we have created [this one-pager](#) to provide interim information on the new law requirements.
- Media coverage:
 - [3/14/24: New America](#)
 - [3/18/24: EdSource](#)



AB 1947 (RIVAS)

Early Edge is also proud to co-sponsor [Assembly Bill \(AB\) 1947](#) by Asm. Luz Rivas alongside Californians Together. AB 1947 will support California State Preschool Program (CSPP) educators in receiving professional development that allows them to provide equitable, high-quality learning experiences for all children, including Dual Language Learners (DLLs), as envisioned in [Governor Newsom's Master Plan for Early Learning and Care](#).

Most recently, AB 1947 passed off the Senate and Assembly floors with unanimous support and now heads to Governor Newsom's desk! Early Edge will continue uplifting this critical legislation as it goes through the legislative process.



Implementation of Successful Legislation

AB 1363 (Rivas)

Early Edge, in partnership with co-sponsor partners including Californians Together, California Association for Bilingual Education (CABE), and Catalyst California, continue to monitor and support the implementation of [AB 1363](#) through practitioner engagement and regular meetings with the California Department of Education (CDE). Most recently,

Early Edge and partners released a tool for the field to support implementation, the [DLL Identification Guide](#), as well as a [communications toolkit](#) for partners to share this resource with the field.

AB 393 (Rivas)

[AB 393](#) co-sponsored by Early Edge, Californians Together, and CABE, went into effect on January 1st! AB 393 builds on the work of our sponsored bill AB 1363 by expanding asset-based Dual Language Learner (DLL) identification to general child care programs (CCTR) and the Migrant Child Care Program (CMIG).

Early Edge and co-sponsor partners have been meeting regularly with the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to discuss implementation and help inform the development of guidance that will be released to the field.



State Budget Priority Advocacy

“As the state continues to navigate times of financial uncertainty, we want to stress the critical importance of prioritizing our most vulnerable and under-resourced populations, including Black and Brown children, families, and providers. We look forward to continuing to work with Governor Newsom, his Administration, and the Legislature to support implementation of programs like TK, while also ensuring investments are being made across the entire Early Learning and Care mixed-delivery system.” —**Patricia Lozano, Executive Director, Early Edge California** in response to the final budget agreement for 2024-25 reached in late June.

- **January 10th** | [Read our statement](#) on Governor Newsom’s 2024-25 state budget proposal.
- **May 14th** | [Read our statement](#) on Governor Newsom’s revision to his 2024-25 state budget proposal.
- **June 27th** | [Read our statement](#) on Governor Newsom and the California Legislature’s agreement on the 2024-25 state budget.

[Read our summary](#) of the relevant Early Learning and Care policy changes included in the final 2024-25 state budget.





EARLY EDGE IN THE MEDIA



“Remember that two languages are better than one. And learning two languages strengthens their brains because bilingual children solve problems better, their memory is more efficient, and they graduate more.” —**Patricia Lozano, Executive Director, Early Edge California** as shared in [Telemundo 52’s Acceso Total program](#).



Media Mentions



- English media: 9 mentions
- Spanish media: 5 mentions

[See Our Media Mentions](#) ➤



14 total media mentions during Q1-Q2 2024





CONNECTING POLICY TO PRACTICE



Advisory Group Leadership Council

(Lead participants from our Advisory Groups)

On **February 5th**, Early Edge's Advisory Group Leadership Council convened its [first meeting of the year](#) with the Leadership Council "Ambassadors". During the meeting, Ambassadors learned about the initial results from Early Edge's Advisory Groups survey and provided input on recruitment and planning of upcoming advisory groups meetings.

On **June 3rd**, Early Edge hosted the [second meeting of the year](#) which featured a listening session to solicit the Leadership Council's feedback on messaging to support Early Edge's advocacy around strengthening infant and toddler care. The council also heard a presentation from one of its members and devoted time to a planning discussion for the first-ever All-Advisory Groups Meeting which happened in late July.



The next Leadership Council meeting will take place in September 2024.



Early Learning Educator Advisory Group

On **April 1st**, Early Edge [convened the Educator Advisory Group](#) in a virtual meeting; our largest meeting via Zoom to date, with a total of 28 educators across the mixed-delivery system. The meeting provided an opportunity for educators to share their feedback and provide input on a series of timely discussion prompts including: Transitional Kindergarten (TK) implementation, the Dual Language Learner (DLL) identification process in California State Preschool Programs (CSPP), and the mixed-delivery system in California.



The next rounds of Educator Advisory Group meetings will occur via Zoom in the summer and in-person in the fall of 2024.

Honoring Renaldo Sanders

We are deeply saddened by the passing of Renaldo Sanders, a passionate caregiver, amazing champion for child care, and long-time member of Early Edge's Educator Advisory Group and Leadership Council. We honor and celebrate Renaldo for the many years she devoted to providing essential care to children in Los Angeles and fighting to improve conditions for child care workers across the state.



Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) Advisory Group

This spring, Early Edge [convened its FFN Advisory Group](#) to discuss key aspects of FFN child care, focusing mainly on their experiences caring for infants and toddlers, the needs of Dual Language Learners (DLLs), interest in and barriers to pursuing licensure.

The FFN Advisory Group held two meetings, one in English on **April 22nd** and one in Spanish on **April 24th**, to ensure inclusive participation.

By the end of the discussions, FFN Advisory Group members had developed a list of policy suggestions to support their caregiving that they will continue to hone in future conversations.





*"Listening and hearing the experiences from other parents helps me as a mother, which then I share with my husband, which finally benefits our small family and community."
—Current Parent Advisory Group Member*

SCAN QR CODE



Why join?
Belong to a growing community of parents, develop your advocacy skills, and receive \$50 gift card for participation!

In Q1 2024, Early Edge began recruitment efforts for our Parent Advisory Groups in English and Spanish, specifically aimed at growing the membership of Los Angeles-based parents of infants and toddlers and California-based student parents to help inform local and state policies that would most benefit young children and their families. Our recruitment efforts resulted in **32 new members for the Parent Advisory Group**, 15 of whom were in our targeted recruitment groups.

Parent Advisory Group

This spring, [Early Edge convened its Parent Advisory Group](#) to discuss key aspects and priorities for parents in their child care options, with a focus on infant and toddler child care and how to better support parents and families. The Parent Advisory Group held two meetings, one in English on April 14th and one in Spanish on April 29th, to ensure inclusive participation. By the end of the discussions, the Parent Advisory Group members shared a list of challenges, suggestions for improvements, and success stories surrounding infant and toddler child care.

Local Educational Agency (LEA) Professional Learning Community (PLC)



This spring, [Early Edge's LEA PLC attended a site visit](#) hosted by LEA PLC member Washington Unified School District (WUSD). Early Edge's LEA PLC is comprised of Early Learning leaders from public school districts across the state who convene to discuss issues in their work, collaborate, and learn together amongst peers.

This site visit provided PLC members the opportunity to look at Transitional Kindergarten (TK) and expanded learning program implementation at WUSD and some best practices deployed to support students, their families, and the community.





ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATES



Staff Promotions (Effective August 2024)



[Meet the Team >](#)



**Carolynne
Crolotte**
Director of Policy
(Previously *Director of Dual
Language Learner Programs*)



Edith Esparza
*Communications
Manager*
(Previously *Communications
Associate*)





New Team Member



**Eduardo
Gutiérrez**
Policy Analyst
(Joined on August 2024)





CONTACT US



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Thank You!

Visit us at linktr.ee/earlyedgeca to learn more!

