



# 2024 YEAR IN REVIEW REPORT

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

[earlyedgecalifornia.org/2024-year-in-review](https://earlyedgecalifornia.org/2024-year-in-review)



**EARLY EDGE**  
CALIFORNIA

## SUPPORTING INFANT AND TODDLER CARE

In 2024, Early Edge expanded efforts to increase access to Early Learning and Care (ELC) for children, ages birth to three years (B-3), and their families, and to strengthen supports for the ELC workforce.

### Key efforts:

- In early 2024, partnered with LA County's Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education (OAECE) to inform recommendations for the [Los Angeles County Infant/Toddler Care and Education System Blueprint](#).
- [Convened educators, caregivers, and parents](#) throughout the year in a series of meetings and listening sessions to better understand their experiences supporting infants and toddlers.
- In February, [launched a 7-week digital #WeLoveLittles campaign](#) to shine a light on children, birth to age three, and the supports they need to learn and develop.
- In March, released [Early Edge California's Vision for a Robust Mixed-Delivery System Serving Children from Birth to Age 5](#).
- In May, formed an Infant & Toddler (B-3) Workgroup composed of statewide and LA County-focused Early Learning and Care (ELC) stakeholders.
- In September, launched a [new B-3 landing page](#) and digital campaign to share key data about the critical need for increased access to infant and toddler care.
- In September, co-hosted an [educational site visit](#) for funders and state decisionmakers at the César Chávez Early Learning Center (CCELC).



Attendees at the CCELC site visit.



## SUPPORTING STUDENT PARENTS

In September, Early Edge's Executive Director, Patricia Lozano, and Policy Analyst, Andrew Avila, [presented at the 2024 Forging Equitable Futures for Student Parents in California Summit](#). During the conference, our organization joined the newly-formed California Alliance for Student Parent Success, which co-hosted the event with the Michelson 20MM Foundation. We simultaneously [launched a digital campaign](#) to uplift the unique challenges faced by parenting students with young children, which culminated with the release of our policy brief, [Supporting Student Parents and their Young Children in California's Institutions of Higher Education](#), outlining recommendations for higher education, state, and federal government.

## SUPPORTING MULTILINGUAL LEARNERS (MLs)

On April 30th, Early Edge co-hosted a [federal webinar](#) focused on uplifting federal policy recommendations in [Immediate Actions the Biden Administration Can Take For DLLs](#), and bright spots across the country.

In celebration of National Bilingual/Multilingual Learner Advocacy Month in April, bilingual/multilingual Early Edge staff shared [why speaking more than one language](#) is important to them in a new video.



This year, Early Edge developed new content for the [Multilingual Learning Toolkit](#) including a [new resource](#) to support Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) faculty and teacher educators with adding content specific to supporting MLs into their coursework and we added 20+ resources focused on early mathematics education with MLs curated by our partners at DREME (Development and Research in Early Mathematics Education).

### [Dual Language Learners \(DLLs\) Master Plan Advocates Project](#)

This year, the [DLL Master Plan Advocates](#) continued to advance its 2-year action plan for DLLs, which was co-developed by the group, based on DLL recommendations from the Master Plan for Early Learning and Care (MPELC). Key efforts:

- Engaged in [several joint advocacy efforts](#) to uplift the needs of DLL children and families.
- Hosted 2 listening sessions to uplift the voices of California State Preschool Program (CSPP) and Transitional Kindergarten (TK) teachers and administrators, and convened families of diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds to gain their perspectives related to language access and bilingual supports.
- Launched a [4-part blog series](#) to uplift the areas of need, highlight opportunities for growth, and share solutions and resources in supporting DLLs in CSPP.
- Learned about exemplar Early Learning programs for supporting DLLs, including dual language infant and toddler programs, in the Long Beach Unified School District and the Educare Los Angeles at Long Beach campus during [a tour co-hosted](#) by Early Edge.



### [Two Languages, Twice the Opportunities Campaign](#)

Early Edge partnered with the DLL Initiative to support the promotion of their [Two Languages, Twice the Opportunities campaign](#). The following media coverage features Early Edge staff uplifting the campaign: Bilingual Generation's ["Talking to Grandma" podcast](#); First 5 LA's [Media Campaign to Promote Bilingualism Adds Four New Languages](#); KWHY-TV's [The Benefits of Bilingualism for Young Children](#); and Telemundo 52 Acceso Total's [How to Preserve Children's Home Language](#).

### [Addressing Language Justice for Black Children](#)

Early Edge has partnered with BlackECE and Catalyst California to co-lead an advisory group that aims to inform advocacy efforts that ensure California has policies to affirm Black children learning multiple languages, including Black Language, Black English, and African American Vernacular English (AAVE) from early childhood through 3rd grade, including supporting biracial and multiracial children within the African American diaspora.

# SUPPORTING HOME-BASED CAREGIVERS

## Policy Advocacy for Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) Providers

- In April, Early Edge and partners released the policy brief, [Increasing Access to Family, Friend, And Neighbor Caregiver Wages through California's Child Care Subsidy System](#), in English and Spanish, which was the feature article of [The Hechinger Report's Early Childhood Newsletter](#).
- Co-hosted the webinar, [California Needs Caregivers: The Importance of Family, Friend, and Neighbor Child Care](#), in September which included special remarks from Asm. Corey Jackson as well as a FFN caregiver and parent panel, and shared a [new co-authored one-pager](#) about FFN care.



## California Leading from Home

Early Edge convened its [2023-24 cohort](#) of the [California Leading from Home](#) (LFH) program in 7 Community of Practice meetings to prepare for their [June advocacy day](#) in the state capitol. There they met with legislative and committee offices of the California State Legislature 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.

*"I am just grateful for everything I have experienced and learned. I am looking forward to growing more and being able to impact more lives and spread the information so other children can have amazing caregivers that feel supported."* —LFH Member

## CONNECTING POLICY TO PRACTICE

This year, Early Edge engaged its educator, caregiver, and parent [advisory group members](#) throughout the year on a variety of topics and issues related to infant/toddler child care, student parents, TK, and DLLs, to inform the development of policy recommendations and legislative action across our priority areas. Highlights from this year included the groups' feedback in our [B-3 takeaways blog](#) and our first ever [All-Advisory Groups Meeting](#) we hosted to provide information to all members about mental health resources.

## STATE-LEVEL ADVOCACY

### 2024 Sponsored & Supported Bills

This year, Early Edge was proud to co-sponsor [Assembly Bill \(AB\) 2268](#) by Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi alongside Californians Together and California Association for Bilingual Education (CABE), which was [signed into law](#) in June and took immediate effect to exempt TK students from taking the English Language Proficiency Assessment of California (ELPAC), starting in the 2024-25 school year. Notable media coverage included: [In California, Testing Four-year-old Dual Language Learners Causes Anxiety and Concern](#) (New America), and [Should 4-year-olds have to take an English proficiency test?](#) (EdSource). Early Edge developed a [one-pager](#) to help provide information on the new law requirements, and with partners, developed [a set of resources](#) for supporting MLs in TK for principals and administrators, teachers, and families. During the 2024 legislative cycle, Early Edge supported a number of bills to strengthen ELC in California, including [AB 1930 \(Reyes\)](#), [AB 2074 \(Muratsuchi & Alvarez\)](#), and [AB 2458 \(Berman\)](#) which were signed into law.

## STATE-LEVEL ADVOCACY (CONTINUED)

### State Budget Advocacy

Early Edge commended Governor Gavin Newsom throughout this year's state budget process for protecting key investments for ELC despite the state facing a significant budget deficit. [Read our statement and summary](#) of the relevant ELC policy changes included in the final 2024-25 state budget.

### Supporting Transitional Kindergarten (TK) / Universal Prekindergarten (UPK) Implementation

Early Edge gathered state and national experts for a [legislative briefing](#) in March, co-sponsored by Assemblymembers Al Muratsuchi, Luz Rivas, and Kevin McCarty, to share highlights from our [2023 Educational Early Learning Tour](#), along with best-practices and considerations for implementing UPK programs within a mixed-delivery system.



To support the expansion of TK, Early Edge launched a back-to-school campaign which included the release of a new resource for policymakers, [Transitional Kindergarten Implementation Progress and Opportunities](#), that tracks TK's implementation across key milestones, roadblocks, and solutions, and targeted media efforts to uplift this free, high-quality preschool option to families including: Executive Director Patricia Lozano's [interview with FOX40 News](#) and Senior Policy Advisor Kelly Reynold's [article about TK for Los Angeles Times](#)' 2024 Back To School Reading by 9 guide.



### EARLY EDGE IN THE FIELD

The Early Edge team presented at various conferences throughout the year to uplift our issue areas and share knowledge with the field:

- **February:** CABE 2024 Conference (Anaheim, CA), *Unlocking the Potential for Young Dual Language Learners and Biliteracy* presented by Carolyne Crolotte, Director of Policy
- **April:** 2024 World Forum (Vancouver, BC), *Improving Access to Child Care Through Advocacy and Policy* presented by Patricia Lozano, Executive Director
- **June:** UNIDOS US Conference (Norwalk, CA), *Meeting the Need for Bicultural and Bilingual Early Childhood Care Workers* presented by Kelly Reynolds, Senior Policy Advisor
- **July:** ZERO TO THREE LEARN Conference (Long Beach, CA), *Promoting Bilingualism in The Early Years Through Home-Based Care* presented by Carolyne Crolotte, Director of Policy, and Andrew Avila, Policy Analyst
- **September:** 2024 Forging Equitable Futures for Student Parents Summit (Los Angeles, CA), *Collectively Imagining Expanded Child Care for Student Parents and Supporting Student Parents by Bridging Early Childhood Education and Higher Education*, presented by Patricia Lozano, Executive Director, and Andrew Avila, Policy Analyst
- **September:** EdTrust-West's 2024 Education Equity Forum (Oakland, CA), *Supporting Multilingual Learners in Transitional Kindergarten Expansion and Implementation*, presented by Carolyne Crolotte, Director of Policy



## ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATES



### Volunteer Day

In October, the Early Edge team had the opportunity to volunteer with national nonprofit organization Baby2Baby to support under-resourced families.

### New Team Members

Eduardo Gutiérrez, Policy Analyst  
Mirel Herrera, Senior Policy Analyst  
Erin Sedita, Development Manager

### Staff Promotions

Carolyne Crolotte, Director of Policy  
(previously Director of DLL Programs)  
Edith Esparza, Communications Manager  
(previously Communications Associate)



In May, Early Edge's Executive Director, Patricia Lozano, joined the Kidango Board of Directors.

## IN THE MEDIA

In 2024, Early Edge received 19 media mentions, 12 in English and 7 in Spanish.

Los Angeles Times

CAL MATTERS

KQED

LA ist

52  
TELEMUNDO

UNIVISION

22  
KWHY-TV  
LOS ANGELES

FOX 40

The Mercury News

NEW AMERICA



THE HECHINGER REPORT

EdSource

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Early Edge California is a nonprofit advocacy organization dedicated to improving access to high-quality Early Learning experiences for all California children so they can have a strong foundation for future success.