



2026 Mid-Year Progress Brief

Featuring the key accomplishments from January through June that reflect our progress in expanding access to high-quality early learning and care (ELC) for California's youngest children and their families—made possible through collaboration with policymakers, advocates, and the generous support of our funders.

\$10M

[state investment](#)
secured to launch the
Bilingual Teaching
Pathways Program

Our Impact by the Numbers

22,700

[new subsidized
child care slots](#)
funded for families
in greatest need

11

[bills](#) we supported to
strengthen children,
families, and the ELC
workforce

15

[media clips](#) earned
across English and
Spanish outlets



Advocacy in Action



State Advocacy

Early Edge helped secure several significant wins in the [Governor's final 2026–27 state budget](#) including:

- Expanding California State Preschool Program (CSPP) community eligibility so more children can access high-quality ELC programs.
- \$10 million state investment to launch the Bilingual Teaching Pathways Program, originating from our co-sponsored bill [AB 2325 \(Alvarez\)](#), to support more Multilingual Learners.
- Funding for 22,700 new subsidized child care slots to increase access for families with the greatest need.



Federal Advocacy

- Early Edge advocated for critical policies that strengthen California in meetings with California congressional delegation members, Senate staff, and key committee offices in Washington, DC alongside Child Care Resource Center (CCRC) and other partners.
- We are an active member of the national Prenatal to 5 (P-5) Network, working collectively to protect and advance policies and programs that support infants, toddlers, and young children.
- Early Edge has joined [Together for Head Start](#), a national network of advocates working to protect and strengthen Head Start, and is part of their Community Engagement Workgroup.

Media Highlights

Early Edge earned 15 total [media clips](#) across English and Spanish media, covering key ELC issues in LA Times, CalMatters, EdSource, KQED, Telemundo, and more.

We were thrilled for the opportunity to join Telemundo's [Nuestros Niños, Nuestra Voz Initiative](#) for various educational segments, including a [special episode](#) of the network's program Acceso Total, where Executive Director Patricia Lozano and other early childhood experts discussed supports for young children including child care, health care, and mental health.



Where We're Making Progress

In March, Early Edge released its [2026 Policy Agenda](#) which outlines key actions our organization is focused on this year to strengthen ELC in our state. Learn about the progress we're making in support of our policy priority areas.



Early Learning and Care (ELC) Systems Transformation

As a core partner in the [ALL IN for Safe Schools](#) campaign, we prioritized protections and supports for immigrant students and families by supporting the implementation of 2025 signed legislation, [AB 495](#) ([Celeste Rodriguez](#)), via guidance materials, a webinar, and co-presented session "ALL IN for Safe ECE Spaces," at the [2026 CAAEYC Conference](#) with The Children's Partnership.



As the early childhood education (ECE) lead for the [Alliance for Candidate Engagement in Education](#) and the governance lead for [Choose Children](#), Early Edge has had a leadership role in statewide efforts to engage California's gubernatorial candidates during the 2026 election cycle including a [Superintendent of Public Instruction \(SPI\) forum](#) and a [Lieutenant Governor forum](#) in Los Angeles, and two gubernatorial candidates forums in the [Bay Area](#) and [Los Angeles](#).



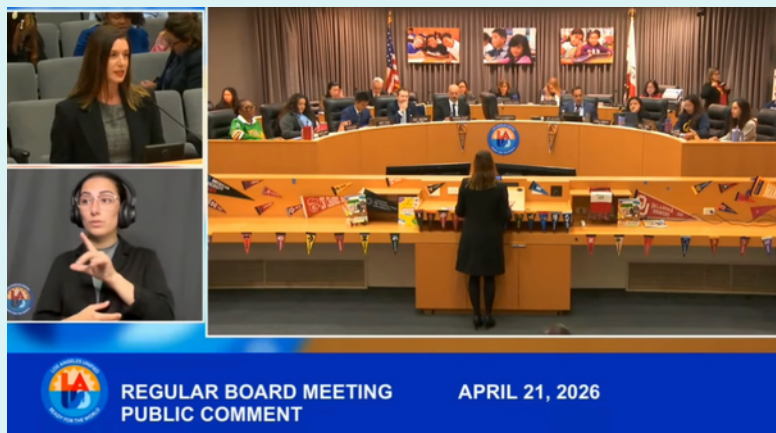
Early Edge represented California at the [2026 GlobalMindED Conference](#), where Executive Director Patricia Lozano and Senior Policy Analyst Mirel Herrera presented on cross-state strategies for advancing preschool and early education alongside national partners, and connected with education leaders from across the country.



Birth to Three (B-3) Child Care



Our B-3 Advocacy Day in the state capitol connected members of our [Advisory Group Leadership Council](#) with the offices of [Senator Menjivar](#) and Assemblymembers [Alvarez](#), [Patel](#), [Ahrens](#), [Bonta](#), [Stefani](#), and [Solache](#) where they shared their lived experiences and advocated for investments that support infants, toddlers, and their families.



Early Edge collaborated with LAUSD Board Member Kelly Gonez's office on the language that was included in the final version of the "Learning Begins at Birth: Growing LAUSD Early Learning Programs" resolution. Our Director of Policy Carolyne Crolotte provided [public comment](#) in support of its adoption, which was included in the [LA Times coverage](#) about the resolution.

In partnership with California Child Care Resource & Referral Network, we [developed an implementation guide](#) to support statewide implementation of our 2025 signed legislation, [SB 271 \(Gómez Reyes\)](#), helping California's public colleges and universities connect student parents with local child care resources.



Universal Preschool (UPK) Implementation

Early Edge [co-hosted a legislative briefing](#) with the Learning Policy Institute for legislators, district and city leaders, researchers, and practitioners on the latest research and reflections about UPK implementation in California with special remarks from Asms. Al Muratsuchi and Mia Bonta.



We launched a pilot, in partnership with Californians Together and funded by First 5 LA, to expand access to multilingual Transitional Kindergarten (TK) programs in Los Angeles by engaging families and communities in LAUSD Board Districts 6 and 7 to identify and address barriers to TK access for Multilingual Learners.

Workforce Compensation, Supports, and Pathways

To support statewide implementation of our 2025 signed legislation, [AB 753 \(Garcia\)](#), we released a [guidance one-pager](#) with our bill co-sponsors about the Assistant Teacher Permit with an Independent Care Emphasis from the Commission on Teacher Credentialing.

On the Ground, Together

Early Edge participated in key advocacy opportunities hosted by various partner organizations and labor unions in the state capitol including:

Thriving Families CA Foundation's 7th "Lifting Up Families" Advocacy Day to raise child care rates, strengthen safety net programs, and support whole families.

Parent Voices for their 30th Annual "Stand for Children Day" during California's budget season in support of child care justice.



Child Care Providers United (CCPU), Parent Voices, and allies to advocate for adequate child care funding for California's children, families, and providers.

The UnRig California rally with Service Employees International Union (SEIU) to urge corporations to pay their share and invest in California's communities and services.



Dual Language Learners (DLLs)

Our Executive Director Patricia Lozano continues serving on the California Department of Education's Statewide English Learner (EL) Roadmap Implementation Planning Advisory Committee ([AB 2074](#)) helping to inform and contribute to statewide efforts aimed at strengthening policies and practices that support Multilingual Learners.



We joined BlackECE and Californians Together to form the [Black English Language Workgroup](#), a collaborative partnership committed to advancing language justice for Black children in early childhood education through webinars and knowledge briefs in the series, "The Brilliance and Importance of Affirming Black English in Early Childhood Education."



NEW Policy Corner Series

Early Edge launched a new Policy Corner blog series where members of our policy team share about the work they're doing in support of ELC, key learnings, and more.



[Learnings from Early Edge California's Early Learning Tour: The Denver Preschool Program](#)



[Early Edge Visits Bay Area Family Child Care Homes](#)



[Advancing Language Justice: The Black \(English\) Language Workgroup](#)



[Celebrating Early Edge's Advancements in Supporting California's Multilingual Learners](#)



[Takeaways from the Early Edge and Learning Policy Institute UPK Legislative Briefing](#)



[The Current State of Early Learning and Care: Why Federal Investments Matter More Than Ever](#)



Early Edge California
earlyedgecalifornia.org
info@earlyedgecalifornia.org