



# Early Learning Action Alliance

## 2010 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

The members of the Early Learning Action Alliance are united by the belief that all children in Washington state deserve the opportunities and support they need in their first five years of life to be prepared for school and a bright future.

### Coalition Members:

American Federation of Teachers  
Washington  
Arc of King County  
Business Partnership for Early  
Learning (BPEL)  
Child Care Resources  
Children's Alliance  
Children's Home Society of WA  
Children's Trust Foundation  
Community Network Coalition  
Denise Louie Education Center  
Early Learning Public Library  
Partnership  
Economic Opportunity Institute  
First Five FUNdamentals  
Foundation for Early Learning  
Kirlin Charitable Foundation  
League of Education Voters  
League of Women Voters  
Washington  
Lutheran Community Services  
Northwest  
Minority Executive Directors  
Coalition of King County  
MomsRising  
Northwest Early Learning Coalition  
Nurse Family Partnership  
Olympia Early Learning Center  
Parent Trust for Washington  
Children/Parents as Teachers State  
Office  
Reach Out & Read Washington  
State  
Ready by Five  
School's Out Washington  
SEIU, Local 925  
SOAR  
Stand for Children  
United Way of King County  
United Ways of Washington  
WA Association for the Education  
of Young Children (WAEYC)  
WA Chapter American Academy of  
Pediatrics  
WA Educators in Early Learning  
Washington State Association of  
Head Start & ECEAP  
WA State Child Care Resource &  
Referral Network  
Washington State Family Child  
Care Association  
Wellspring Family Services  
White Center Early Learning  
Initiative

### ◆ Prioritize Early Learning Investments in the Budget

*Include a \$1.6 billion increase for the Child Care and Development Block Grant and a \$1 billion increase for Head Start and Early Head Start. When America supports all licensed child care, Head Start and Early Head Start, we encourage children, families, and our nation to reach their full potential. These programs are vital supports for children who need high-quality early learning and afterschool experiences that promote their successful development and for parents working to support their children.*

#### Impact on Washington State

For Washington State, the President's proposed major increases to child care, afterschool programs, and other early learning programs in his 2011 budget could mean an increase of approximately \$29 million annually in Child Care and Development Block Grant funding and funding to sustain the 202 additional Head Start and 852 Early Head Start slots added to serve children through stimulus funds.

### ◆ Pass the Early Learning Challenge Fund (ELCF)

The ELCF would be the most significant investment in state systems for quality early learning programs in the history of the U.S.. Investing in crucial infrastructure will ensure that our nation's children have bright futures by creating a more coherent system that serves as an umbrella for early childhood priorities.

#### Impact on Washington State

The passage of the ELCF would help establish badly needed state infrastructure as well as ensure that Washington can provide high quality early learning to a greater number of children in our state. If Washington is successful in the competition for an Early Learning Challenge Grant, even at one fiftieth of the funds proposed to be appropriated under this act, *it could receive as much as \$20 million per year in funding to help ensure the success of a comprehensive birth to five system in Washington state.*

### ◆ Include Early Learning in Elementary and Secondary Education Act Reauthorization (ESEA)

Update the ESEA to reflect the indisputable evidence that the early years of children's education—those from pre-kindergarten through third grade—establish essential skills and behaviors that support college- and career-readiness. The reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act provides a unique opportunity to transform American education.

#### Impact on Washington State

Changes to ESEA could increase professional development opportunities in early learning, increase funding for schools to increase alignment between early learning and K-12, and help promote an aligned data system between early learning and K-12. Washington currently has 8 school districts with Early Learning Leadership Grants through the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation that are working towards greater P-3<sup>rd</sup> continuity for kids. If ESEA is authorized with early learning included, it could enhance and expand these important efforts.

The Early Learning Action Alliance is convened by the Children's Alliance.

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