



A child's early years are the foundation for future development. Families, caregivers, and teachers work together to help young children become confident, lifelong learners.

This week's newsletter highlights the ways states are recognizing high-quality early childhood education as an essential building block of student success.

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State Spotlights



*Commonwealth of Virginia
Office of the Governor*

Virginia Governor Ralph Northam established the Children's Cabinet to develop a set of goals, identify strategies, and measure impact and outcomes to improve children services around the state.

This cabinet will focus on early childhood development and school readiness, nutrition and food safety, and systems of care and safety for school-aged youth.

The goal of this cabinet is to encourage state agencies to collaborate across government and non-governmental entities on collective goals and support efforts to collect and share data to track outcome metrics and inform future policy that improves the lives of children in Virginia.

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Public Schools of North Carolina

State Board of Education
Department of Public Instruction

The **North Carolina** Department of Public Instruction is partnering with the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services to create the Birth through Third Grade (B-3) Interagency Council to facilitate the development and implementation of an interagency plan for a coordinated system of early care, education, and child development services.

The council will address standards and assessments, data-driven improvements, teacher and administrator preparation and effectiveness, transitions and continuity, family engagement, and funding.

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New York State
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
Knowledge > Skill > Opportunity

The **New York** State Board of Regents established the Early Childhood Blue Ribbon Committee to provide advice to the Board of Regents' Early Childhood Workgroup with the goal of transforming the state's early care and education system, especially for high-needs children.

In December 2017, the [Blue Ribbon Committee presented budget recommendations](#) to help frame the Board of Regents' discussions on how to improve outcomes for New York's youngest learners.

In September 2018, the BRC will present a final report to the Board of Regents with recommendations that will require legislative and policy changes as well as a budget request.

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Illinois State Board of Education

The **Illinois** State Board of Education developed the Kindergarten Individual Development Survey (KIDS), an observational tool designed to help teachers, administrators, families, and policymakers better understand the developmental readiness of children entering kindergarten.

KIDS focuses on the knowledge skills, and behaviors across approaches to learning and self-regulation, social and emotional development, language and literacy develop, and cognition of math.

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The revised **Iowa** Early Learning Standards describe the typical behavior, knowledge, and skills in children age 5 and under that set the stage for success in school.

Aligned with statewide elementary school standards, the Iowa Early Learning Standards address physical well-being and motor development, approaches to learning, social and emotional development, communication, language and literacy, math, science, creative arts, and social studies.

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The **Minnesota** Department of Education developed a set of Knowledge and Competency Frameworks for Early Childhood Professionals.

This framework outline what an early childhood educator needs to know about research and theory, along with the skills and abilities necessary to work effectively in the field.

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The **New Mexico** Public Education Department will award 11 school districts and charter schools \$20 million in grants over the next three years in an effort to improve early literacy.

The Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy grants are a continued targeted investment in early literacy that builds on increased funding that will allow 11 school districts to host Pre-K programs for the first time in the 2018-19 school year.

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COLORADO

Department of Education

The **Colorado** Department of Education established the Office of P-3 Education to support districts in building a high-quality continuum of learning from birth to age 8.

This P-3 approach includes an understanding of the early years of a child's growth and development, strong leadership committed to seamless learning that bridges a child's experiences from birth through 5, access to preschool for 3- and 4 year-olds, full-day kindergarten, and partnerships between schools, families, and communities.

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Must Read

CCSSO created the Early Childhood Education Collaborative to inform directors and specialists of early learning at state education agencies on critical education policies and problems of practice for young children.

The Collaborative provides access to subject matter experts, exemplary state and local models of practice, and cross-state sharing among the participating state teams.

The goals are to ensure continued support to states in implementing early learning strategies under ESSA, integrating early learning into school improvement, and helping state teams focus their work on early learning indicators impacting the well-being of young learners.

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Tools & Resources



The Department of Defense created the Virtual Lab School to address a critical need for easy-to-navigate online professional development for early learning professionals.

This system provides an extensive repository of professional development videos, research-based content, and relevant, interactive learning materials.

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The Center for the Study of Child Care Employment published the 2018 Early Childhood Workforce Index to provide a national snapshot of characteristics of the early educator workforce.

The report also discusses the variations in state-level policies ranging from qualifications and education support, work environments, compensation and financial relief strategies, workforce data, and financial resources.

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Education Commission of the States' *50-States Comparison: State Kindergarten-Through-Third-Grade Policies* highlights how states are approaching a high-quality K-3 experience.

The resource covers how states address qualified teachers, seamless transitions, assessments and interventions, family engagement, and social-emotional and academic support.

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We want to hear from you!

Send your state's stories or organization's resources to communications@ccsso.org



The States Leading campaign celebrates the progress states are making toward providing equitable education for all students through the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and innovative policies in other key areas of education, such as early childhood education, teacher preparation, and career readiness, among others.

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