

**Process for Developing Recommendations to the Governor
and a 2010 Legislative Proposal
By December 1, 2009**



**Report to the Quality Education Council
August 27, 2009**

CHRISTINE O. GREGOIRE
Governor



STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

P.O. Box 40002 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0002 • (360) 753-6780 • www.governor.wa.gov

June 8, 2009

The Honorable Randy Dorn
Superintendent of Public Instruction
Post Office Box 47200
Olympia, WA 98504-7200

Ms. Bette Hyde, Director
Washington Department of Early Learning
Post Office Box 40970
Olympia, WA 98504-0970

Dear Superintendent Dorn and ~~Director~~ *Bette* Hyde:

On May 19, 2009, I asked you both to start the very important work of developing a proposal for the 2010 legislative session to ensure that all Washington children and their families have the benefit of early childhood education. I would like to share some of my thoughts with you as you undertake the task of developing this proposal for all of our early learners defined as birth through five years old.

The goals for early learning developed through the 18-month Washington Learns process are crucial. These goals include supporting parents as their children's first and most important teachers, as parents help their children learn. Striving for all children to enter kindergarten healthy, and emotionally and cognitively ready to succeed in school and life is equally important.

I am asking you to work on a proposal about the state's role in providing early learning opportunities for all children birth to five, their families, early learning caregivers and educators. I believe children should have early learning opportunities from birth. These opportunities must include both recognizing the role of the parent as the child's first and most important teacher, and that the opportunities should be available to all children and families.

I would also like you to consider the resources that could be available to support your recommendations and provide recommendations identifying where to start programs and how to develop them to scale. For example, with all-day kindergarten, we started with providing all-day kindergarten for all children in the schools with the highest levels of poverty and are working towards all-day kindergarten available for all kindergarten students. When funded, all-day kindergarten will be part of basic education.

As you conduct your work, I expect you will involve Thrive by Five and the early learning stakeholders. I would like to see a work plan, including a timeline and a date for a preliminary report, leading to a final report by December 1, 2009. I am also asking you to look beyond current programs and service delivery systems and address the questions: "What early learning opportunities should all children and their families have in Washington from birth until they enter kindergarten?" and "What are the roles of communities, non-profits and government?"





Washington State Department of
Early Learning



Thrive by Five
WASHINGTON

Process for Developing Recommendations to the Governor and a 2010 Legislative Proposal by December 1, 2009

PREFACE: In early June 2009, Governor Gregoire requested that Department of Early Learning Director (DEL) Bette Hyde and Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) Randy Dorn develop “a proposal by December 2009 for the 2010 legislative session to ensure that all Washington children and their families have the benefit of early childhood education”. She requested a world-class plan to support all children beginning at birth - a plan consistent with the vision of Washington Learns. There are already committees of the Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) designing a statewide early learning plan that is required by statute (SB5828) scheduled to be finalized in the spring of 2010. The ELAC work builds on the Kids Matter Framework and engages the thinking of many of Washington State’s early learning leaders. Understandably, Governor Gregoire needs the requested proposal delivered for consideration in the upcoming legislative session. What follows are process guidelines for how to meet the deadline, as well as, validating and building on the ongoing work of ELAC.

DECEMBER 1 DRAFTING TEAM: A draft plan will be developed by the December 1 Drafting Team representatives from DEL, OSPI, Thrive By Five Washington, and the field. Members include:

- Nina Auerbach, President and CEO, Thrive By Five Washington
- Elizabeth Bonbright-Thompson, Executive Director, Washington State Child Care Resource & Referral Network (CCR&R), **ELAC Work Group Chair for Early Care and Education/Child Care**
- Bonnie Beukema, Deputy Director, League of Education Voters
- Sarah Borgida, Foundation for Early Learning, **ELAC Work Group Co-Chair for Parent and Community Partnerships**
- Bob Butts, Assistant Superintendent, OSPI

- Jeanne Dengate, Tulalip Tribes Child Care Program Director/CCDF
- Sangree Froelicher, Assistant Director, Department of Early Learning
- Leslie Goldstein, Executive Policy Advisor, Governor's Office
- Erica Hallock, Executive Director, United Ways of Washington
- Bob Hamilton, Deputy Director, DEL
- Tory Clarke Henderson, Child & Adolescent Health Consultant, Department of Health, **ELAC Work Group Chair for Social- Emotional and Mental Health**
- Bette Hyde, Director, Department of Early Learning
- Erin Jones, Assistant Superintendent, Center for the Improvement of Student Learning, OSPI
- Helen Jones, Early Learning Consultant, **ELAC Work Group Co-Chair**
- Lorena Lowell, Child Care Center Director/Owner **ELAC Co-Chair**
- Paola Maranan, Executive Director, Children's Alliance
- Paula Quinn, Association of Washington School Principals
- Jada Rupley, Associate Superintendent, ESD 112, **ELAC Co-Chair**
- Mary Seaton, Director of Early Learning, OSPI
- Jill Sells, MD, Pediatrician, Reach Out and Read Washington, **ELAC Work Group Chair for Child Health and Development/Access to Health**
- Elaine VonRosenstiel, Early Learning Consultant

The group will review research, cultural competence and best practices intensively beginning in early August until the draft is completed. This team will establish foundational principles that guide the system and ensure that there is a continuum of offerings for all children, as well as alternative ideas for how to fund the system.

ELAC SUBCOMMITTEES: Beginning in August and throughout the fall, the December 1 Drafting Team will iteratively process back and forth with four ELAC early learning planning steering committee and work groups and the ELAC as a whole. The work groups are: Early Care and Education/Child Care; Social- Emotional and Mental Health, Child Health and Development/Access to Health; and Parent and Community Partnerships. Please note that 7 of

the 20 individuals who serve on the December 1 Drafting Team are also members of ELAC and its work on the early learning plan.

ADVOCATES/CONSUMER GROUP: In addition to the above, it is important that we engage early learning stakeholders and groups, including: parents, families, providers/caregivers, advocates, and other “movers and shakers.” Listed below is an initial list of stakeholders we will communicate with throughout the development of these recommendations for the Governor.

Achievement Gap Focus Groups

American Federation of Teachers

Association of Washington School Principals

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Bob Watt/Business Roundtable/Association of Washington Business

The Child Care Director’s Association of Greater Seattle

Department of Early Learning staff

Department of Health

Department of Social and Health Services

Early Learning Action Alliance

Eastern Washington Family Child Care Association

Council for Children & Families

Child Care Resource & Referral

Children’s Alliance

Community Colleges

Department of Early Learning Parent Advisory Group

Economic Opportunity Institute

Educational Service Districts

Family Policy Council

Fight Crime/Invest in Kids Washington

Foundation for Early Learning
Governor's Office of Indian Affairs
Higher Education Coordinating Board
League of Education Voters
Mental Health Transformation Grant
Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction
Parent Teacher Association
Professional Educator Standards Board
Public School Employees of Washington
Service Employees International Union
Stand for Children in Washington
Thrive by Five Washington
Tribal Nations
United Ways of Washington
Washington Association for the Education of Young Children
Washington Association of School Administrators
Washington Education Association
Washington State Association of Head Start & ECEAP
Washington State Board of Community & Technical Colleges
Washington State Board of Education
Washington State Commission on African American Affairs
Washington State Commission on Asian Pacific Affairs
Washington State Commission on Hispanic Affairs
Washington State Family Child Care Association
Washington State School Directors' Association

LEGISLATORS: It is critically important that legislators be involved. Between August and early October, Superintendent Dorn and Director Hyde will have personal conversations with key legislators. In addition, draft proposals will be shared for review and comment.

FIELD REVIEW & INPUT: Finally, DEL, OSPI and Thrive by Five Washington have designed a section of their web sites to focus on the development of the recommendations to the Governor. For DEL's website, please go to www.del.wa.gov/partnerships/elac/elp.aspx to view weekly updates of the December 1 Drafting Team's work. This section of the web site will invite people to sign up for a Key Communicators group. These Key Communicators will receive more detailed feedback about the development of the recommendations to the Governor, and be invited to offer feedback in return. Anyone who requests will be added to this Key Communicators list. OSPI and Thrive By Five Washington's web site will also link to DEL's web site and encourage suggestions/input from the field.

In addition to direct input, there will be outreach and community reviews of the draft recommendations to the Governor. The outreach and community review efforts will be held in different areas of the State to solicit input. This will tentatively begin in mid-October 2009 and will continue into early spring 2010. Please contact Amy Blondin, DEL Communications Manager at amy.blondin@del.wa.gov or 360.725.4919 if you would like to a community meeting to happen in your region/area of the state. It is critical that Washington citizens provide suggestions to ensure that our State's plan well serves our State's youngest learners and their families.

Guiding Principles for Development of Washington State's Early Learning System*

1. Be child-focused and family-centered. Promote meaningful partnerships with parents and families, since they are children's first teachers.
2. Promote alignment of early learning services and programs as a continuum that is comprehensive, supports whole child development, and is available to all children.
3. Be flexible, culturally responsive, accessible and respectful, and reflect the needs of local communities and individual children.
4. Be developmentally appropriate and, where applicable, evidence based, and address each stage of child development from prenatal through grade 3.
5. Build on strengths—of children, parents, families, providers, programs, and prior planning efforts, such as Kids Matter and Washington Learns.
6. Promote high-quality early learning to increase school readiness and success in school and in life.
7. Include professional development and support for early learning and care providers.
8. Promote transparency and accountability in all policies, services and programs.
9. Provide ways to measure progress over time.
10. Identify funding sources and promote adequate financing of the system.
11. Provide for meaningful stakeholder review and comment on the Washington State Early Learning Plan as it is being developed and on the system's performance over time.

8/26/09

* A "system" is a group of independent elements that interact and that together form a unified whole. The early learning system is the various policies, programs and services for young children and for the adults who care for and teach them. When these elements are each working well *and* align with the other elements, children will have the best opportunity for optimal development.

DRAFT: Structure for Developing the Early Learning Plan and 12/1/09 Proposal to the Governor

