



Washington Association for the Education of Young Children

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2010 Legislative Agenda

WAEYC provides services to members and advocates for policies that enable individuals and businesses to provide high-quality early learning experiences for young children birth through eight years old. Our vision is that all early learning professionals are well-qualified, competent and highly compensated, and early learning programs are of high-quality. Systems that nurture and support high-quality are in place, and financial resources for professional development and program operations are available.

1. Protect current state and federal investments in high-quality early learning programs and well-qualified, competent and highly compensated early learning professionals and support new state revenue – which is urgently needed to fulfill the state’s goals – for high-quality early learning.

Last year we slipped back from our progress as a state in supporting the kind of high-quality early learning that provides stable support to low-income children and families and prepares children for school. Now more than ever – protection of the following investments and a commitment to new sources of state revenue are needed to sustain existing early learning investments and position Washington to receive additional federal funds.

- Early Childhood Education Assistance Program (ECEAP)
- Working Connections Child Care
- Career and Wage Ladder
- Child Care Resource and Referral
- Quality Rating & Improvement System (QRIS)

2. Ensure high-quality early learning programs for young children birth to five years old.

Children who have had the advantage of high-quality early learning enter kindergarten better prepared to succeed in school and need fewer services to help them catch up. We can help all children in Washington have the opportunity to achieve their full potential in school and life by

- Making voluntary, universal preschool available for 3- and 4-year olds.
- Ensuring a continuum of early learning opportunities for children birth through three years old.

3. Allow children in child care the stability they need.

Low-income families will have a wider range of affordable early learning opportunities and children will be more likely to experience the continuity of care they need if the child care subsidy system is fixed. Extending the reauthorization period from 6 to 12 months and other policy fixes will promote stability for children, their parents and early learning programs and professionals.

Contact: Agda Burchard, Executive Director or Lonnie Johns-Brown, Lobbyist

1/15/10

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Promoting excellence in early learning