



Fact Sheet



Early Learning
— Collaborative —

www.DCELC.org

DC Early learning Collaborative

VISION

The creation of a seamless continuum of high-quality Early Childhood Education programs and services in the District of Columbia that result in positive outcomes for all young children and their families? We share that vision and we invite you to join the DC Early Learning Collaborative in making that vision a reality.

MISSION

The DC Early learning Collaborative is an alliance of over 100 Early Childhood educators, professionals, organizations, and coalitions working together to advocate for improved public policy, public investment, and cross sector service delivery capacity. The overarching goal is to help produce and sustain a seamless continuum of high-quality programs and services that result in positive outcomes for all of the District of Columbia's young children and their families.

THEORY OF ACTION

The DC Early Learning Collaborative will develop, acquire and disseminate economic, social and educational research; utilize state of the art communication, mobilization tools and strategies; and convene and collaborate with early learning professionals and other key stakeholders to achieve high-quality early care and education in the District of Columbia.

PAST ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Pre-Kindergarten – 3 and 4 year olds

- ◆ We collaborated with then City Council Chairman Vincent Gray to lead the city-wide public awareness and community mobilization campaign Pre-K for All DC. This campaign resulted in unanimous passage of the city's nationally recognized legislation: the Pre-kindergarten Expansion and Enhancement Act of 2008, providing universal and free PreK- for all 3 and 4 year olds in the District of Columbia.
- ◆ We helped position the District of Columbia to become the nation's leading jurisdiction in the provision of access and public investment in early childhood services and opportunities. Using a diverse delivery system of public schools and community based organizations, as of 2018, the District serves 72% or 6187 of 3 year olds and 86 percent of 4 year olds or 7,318 for a total of 13,505 children.

The District spends over \$13,000 per child, substantially outranking all other jurisdictions around the country.

Infants and Toddlers – Zero to 3

- ◆ The Collaborative worked closely with the Bainum Family Foundation and leading non-profits in the District to help craft and advocate for the 2018 Birth to Three for All DC legislation that was passed unanimously by the DC City Council with first year funding. The legislation provides for a comprehensive system of services, supports and the prospects for multi-year investments in education and health services. Investments in education and health services.

CURRENT WORK

- ◆ The Collaborative is currently working with City Council, Early Childhood Education professionals and providers to produce a comprehensive, sustainable system of services, supports and investments for children birth to school entry and purposefully targeting those supports to where they are needed most, Wards 7 & 8, the east end of the city.
- ◆ The Collaborative is serving as a leading advocate and watchdog to ensure that the purposes and vision inherent in the Pre-K Expansion and Enhancement law, and the B-3 for All DC law are fully implemented with fidelity.
- ◆ As part of this agenda, the Collaborative is working with local Universities on making it affordable for classroom teachers and directors to meet the required credentialing and degree attainment that will result in higher quality services and increased compensation.
- ◆ The Collaborative is a leader in the Under 3 DC campaign to secure the multi-year public investments needed to fully implement the landmark Birth to Three legislation.



**Investing in
Children Families
and Communities**



WHY SHOULD PEOPLE DONATE TO DCELC?

- ◆ The first five years of a child's life are more formative than at any other stage, creating either a sturdy or a fragile foundation. Seventy-five percent of brain growth and 85% of intellectual, personality, and social skills develops before age 5. To make the most of these early years, children need consistent and nurturing care, safe and stimulating environments, nutritious food and attention to their physical needs, and opportunities to engage in positive interactions with adults and other children.
- ◆ High-quality Early Childhood Education programs, services and opportunities serve as the foundation for the success of the District's Pre-K-12 school reform efforts, the city's workforce development initiatives and the city's long-term economic vitality.
- ◆ An effective monitoring and advocacy mechanism is needed to ensure all eligible children from infancy through school entry receive the great start and sustainable public investments, resulting in positive outcomes for children and families in the District of Columbia.
- ◆ **DCELC** is the leading non-profit organization consistently and collaboratively working with public and private partners to create the 29,000 slots needed to meet the demand for high quality, affordable and accessible infant and toddler Early Childhood Education services. We seek to ensure that all resources created by publicly funded birth to three and Pre-K programs are fully utilized and available to all eligible children and families in the District of Columbia.

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WHY DO WE DO THIS WORK

- * We believe sustained public investment in high quality Early Childhood Education programs and services is central to the well-being of the city's children, families, and Communities.
- * To ensure Early Childhood Education practitioners have a voice, acquire the credentials and the compensation to produce the highest quality Early Childhood Education for the city's children and families.
- * We continue to learn from and build on the success of the landmark Pre-K legislation to help produce universal early care and education for infants and toddlers and help keep the city number one in the nation, for quality Early Childhood Education programs and services for children 0-5 years of age.

WHAT WE ARE COMMITTED TO DOING

- * Increasing our communications and technology capacity to tell the Pre-K story to inform and promote implementation of Pre-K and Birth to Three legislation with fidelity.
- * Strengthening the capacity of Early Childhood Education professionals to advocate for the child's interest and take full advantage of the available resources to achieve higher credentials, along with equitable and competitive compensation.
- * Holding city government officials accountable and encouraging all segments of the DC education community to understand the importance of supporting and participating in Early Childhood Education programs and services.

