SPREE Working Group Meeting Agenda

This meeting is made possible with the generous support from the Heising-Simons Foundation.

SPREE Working Group Members

Legislative Members:
Representative Robert Behning, Indiana  Delegate Anne Kaiser, Maryland
Representative Mark Kinner, Wyoming  Representative Emily McAsey, Illinois
Representative Takashi Ohno, Hawaii  Senator Quinton Ross, Alabama
Senator Howard Stephenson, Utah  Representative Julie VanOrden, Idaho

Legislative Staff:
Paddy McCracken, research analyst, Montana Legislative Services
Scott Tohlen, research analyst, Oklahoma House of Representatives

Educational Researchers/Policy Experts:
Joseph Bishop, senior policy advisor, Learning Policy Institute, Palo Alto, California
Iheoma Iruka Thompson, director of research and evaluation, Buffett Early Childhood Institute, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Neb.
Jennifer Stedron, executive director, Early Milestones Colorado, Denver, Colorado
Conor Williams, senior researcher, Education Policy Program, founding director, Dual Language Learners Work Group, New America, Washington, D.C.

NCSL Support Staff:
Matt Weyer, policy specialist, Education Program, Denver
Julie Davis Bell, group director, Education Program, Denver
Chloe Sweem, staff assistant, Education Program, Denver
*All meetings for the SPREE Working Group will take place in the Wrigley Field room unless otherwise noted*

8:00 – 8:30 a.m.  Breakfast and Networking

8:30 – 9:00 a.m.  SPREE Working Group: Introductions, Vision and Objectives

Pre-reading: Group member biographies, SPREE vision statement and key objectives
Speaker: Matt Weyer, National Conference of State Legislatures

9:00 – 9:15 a.m.  Break

9:15 a.m. – noon  Deep Dive Session

ESSA and the Six Critical Issue Areas for Early Childhood Education (9:15 – 9:45)

This deep-dive session will open with a group discussion of ESSA generally as it relates to early childhood education (questions, concerns) then feature the critical issue areas as they were derived by SPREE researchers for integration into the group’s framework.

Pre-reading: Six Critical Issue Areas as Designed by SPREE Researchers
Moderator: Matt Weyer, NCSL
Speakers: Joe Bishop, Learning Policy Institute
Jennifer Stedron, Early Milestones Colorado

The Opportunity/Readiness Gap in ECE (9:45 – 10:30)

One of every two low-income children enter kindergarten deficient in the skills necessary for a strong educational start. This session will focus on the gap by looking at the contributing systems and how families, schools and communities can help.

Pre-reading: TBD
Speakers: Iheoma Iruka Thompson, Buffett Early Childhood Institute

Family Engagement in Early Childhood Education: Key Strategies (10:30 – 11:15 a.m.)

Family engagement can be a ubiquitous, often difficult concept to measure let alone improve. Methods for assessment, evaluation and implementation of family engagement will be discussed and state examples presented.
Pre-reading: TBD
Speaker: Elena Lopez, Harvard Family Research Project

**Dual Language Learners: New Opportunities under the Every Student Succeeds Act (11:15 a.m.– noon)**

This session will examine the new opportunities afforded under the ESSA as they relate to dual language learners. Strategies, state examples and challenges will be discussed.

Pre-reading: [Dual Language Learners: State Options Under The Every Student Succeeds Act](https://www.ncsl.org/), TBD
Speakers: Conor Williams, Dual Language Learner Work Group, New America

* Noon – 1:00 p.m.
  * **Soldier Field Room**
  
  **Joint Lunch Reception with Early Learning Fellows:**
  **Institute of Medicine Parent Support Study**
  
  The goal of this study is to identify a core set of parenting knowledge, attitudes, and practices (KAPs) tied to positive parent-child interactions and child outcomes as well as evidence-based strategies that support these KAPs universally and across a variety of specific populations. Lead researchers will discuss the preliminary findings.

  Speakers: Iheoma Iruka Thompson, Buffett Early Childhood Institute
  Elena Lopez, Harvard Family Research Project

* 1. – 1:45 p.m.
  * **Soldier Field Room**
  
  **Joint Session with Early Learning Fellows - Preschool**
  **Language Screeners**
  
  Language screening instruments identify young DLLs upon entrance into preschool classrooms and are very similar to the federal identification requirement in K-12 education. Currently, 15 states require their public preschool programs to screen students. The challenges and opportunities presented by screeners will be discussed.

  Pre-reading: TBD
  Speaker: Conor Williams, Dual Language Learner Work Group, New America

1:45 – 2:00 p.m.

**Break (please move back to Wrigley Field room)**

2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

**Early Childhood Education-Quality and State Frameworks for Children Birth to Age Eight**
Quality stands above all else when it comes to early childhood education. Presenters will highlight the building blocks of quality programs and state frameworks for enhancing implementation and subsequent quality and outcomes.

Pre-reading: The Building Blocks of High-Quality Early Childhood Education Programs, LPI Case Studies, Colorado Framework
Speakers: Joe Bishop, Learning Policy Institute
Jennifer Stedron, Early Milestones Colorado

3 – 4:45 p.m. SPREE Framework and Publication-Working Session
This working session will allow SPREE members time to discuss research findings and to begin collaborating, sharing and examining ideas for the framework and publication.

Facilitators: Matt Weyer, NCSL and SPREE Researchers

4:45 – 5 p.m. Next Steps and Planning for 2017

5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Dinner Reception