NCSL Early Learning Fellows
Aug. 7-8, 2016
Chicago

Early Learning Fellows Meeting: Policy, Research and Innovations
McCormick Place • 2301 S. King Drive • Chicago

Agenda

The final meeting will continue the work with the Early Learning Fellows and provide issue content information in a peer learning community setting with additional facilitated small group time. Goals include:

- Build knowledge among legislators about new research and policy.
- Promote exchange of ideas and solutions related to early learning, the early achievement gap, and many other birth to age 8 issues.
- Introduce and connect legislators to other legislative leaders.
- Provide Fellows with practical information they can use in their state, including an early learning action plan.
- Facilitate access to leading researchers and policy experts.

Sunday, Aug. 7, 2016
McCormick Place • Location: W185d, First Floor

8-8:30 a.m.  Breakfast and Networking

8:30-9:00 a.m.  Welcome and Overview of the Day
Introductions: Rochelle Finzel, National Conference of State Legislatures

9-10:00 a.m.  The Power of Play and Helping Young Children Develop Self-Regulated Learning
Take an in-depth look at self-regulation/executive functions (SR/EF) and the link between those skills in preschool and kindergarten and later school achievement and life success. Hear how high-quality early learning environments can promote the development of these skills in children, and how make-believe play can help young children develop SR/EF.

Introduction: Robyn Lipkowitz, National Conference of State Legislatures
Speaker: Deb Leong, Tools of the Mind, Colorado

10-10:45 a.m.  Table Talk
Reflect on the last session and network with your colleagues.
10:45-11:45 a.m.  **Priorities in Early Childhood Development**  The Erikson Institute is one of the nation's leading graduate schools in child development and has been recognized for their groundbreaking work in the early childhood field. Hear from Erikson’s president and CEO, Geoff Nagle, about the priorities in early childhood development, such as transforming the early childhood workforce, using technology effectively in child development, and other emerging topics. Also hear about Geoff’s previous work with Louisiana’s approach to financing high quality child care through tax credits.

Introduction: Julie Poppe, National Conference of State Legislatures  
Speaker: Geoff Nagle, Erikson Institute, Illinois

11:45 a.m.-Noon  **Break**

Noon-1:00 p.m.  **Joint Lunch with SPREE Working Group: Institute of Medicine Parent Support Study**  This newly released report provides a roadmap for the future of parenting and family support policies, practices, and research in the U.S.

Introduction: Matt Weyer, National Conference of State Legislatures  
Speakers: Iheoma Iruka, Buffett Early Childhood Institute, University of Nebraska  
Kim Boller, Mathematica Policy Research, New Jersey

1-1:45 p.m.  **Joint Session with SPREE Working Group: Preschool Language Learners**  Language screening instruments identify young Dual Language Learners (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.

Moderator: Matt Weyer, National Conference of State Legislatures  
Speaker: Conor Williams, New America, D.C.

1:45-2 p.m.  **Break**

2-3:00 p.m.  **Financing Early Childhood**  Hear about Illinois’ Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG) and the emphasis on funding for infants and toddlers. Participants will spend time discussing financing opportunities and challenges in small groups.

Moderator: Julie Poppe, National Conference of State Legislatures  
Speaker: Jonathan Doster, Ounce of Prevention Fund, Illinois

3-4:00 p.m.  **Creating Data-Driven Early Childhood Systems to Support Accountability**  This session will highlight how states are transforming data collection policies to more effectively use early childhood data to guide policy and assess service delivery. Current trends and action steps for policymakers will be discussed.

Introduction: Robyn Lipkowitz, National Conference of State Legislatures  
Speaker: Carlise King, Early Childhood Data Collaborative, Maryland
4-4:30 p.m.  Final Work on Early Learning Plan

4:30-5:00 p.m.  Closing Thoughts and Reflections
Fellows will share any thoughts from the day.

5:15-7:00 p.m.  Cocktail Hour and Reception
MX Bar - Hyatt

7:00 p.m.  Enjoy Dinner on Your Own in Chicago

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**Monday, Aug. 8, 2016**
**McCormick Place • Location: W185d, First Floor**

8-8:30 a.m.  Breakfast and Networking

8:30-9:00 a.m.  Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Update on Early Learning Opportunities
Introduction: Matt Weyer, National Conference of State Legislatures
Speaker: Lee Posey, National Conference of State Legislatures

9-10:00 a.m.  Integrating Early Learning into School Leaders’ Prep and Professional Development Experiences
Leadership is second only to classroom instruction as an influence on student learning and positive child outcomes. Illinois is the only state that requires a “pre-K thru 12” principal endorsement and training in early learning. Hear about integrating early learning when developing school leadership and the recent research showing impacts locally and statewide.

Introduction: Robyn Lipkowitz, National Conference of State Legislatures
Speaker: Steve Tozer, University of Illinois

10-10:15 a.m.  Break

10:15-11:30 a.m.  Home Visiting: A Legislative Primer
Home visiting is a voluntary, evidence-based prevention strategy used in states for more than a decade to support at-risk pregnant mothers and new parents. State legislators play an important role in developing policies that incorporate evaluation findings, accountability measures, and quality improvement strategies to promote long-term cost savings for states. Learn about the philosophy and history of home visiting, and specifically the programs, funding and innovation utilized in Illinois. Hear what quality home visiting looks like through first-hand experiences.

Introduction: Alison May, National Conference of State Legislatures
Speaker: Anna Potere, Ounce of Prevention Fund, Illinois

11:30-Noon  Report Out/Closing Thoughts/Future Work

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