



***Policy, Research and Innovation in Early Learning***  
***Kick Off Meeting***  
**May 1-2, 2013**  
**Hyatt Regency Denver • Denver, Colorado**  
**Final Agenda**

The kickoff meeting will set the stage for the year-long work with the Early Learning Fellows and will provide issue content information in a peer learning community setting with additional facilitated small group time. Other 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 eight issues;
- Introduce and connect legislators to other legislative leaders;
- Provide Fellows with practical information they can use in their state; and
- Facilitate access to leading researchers and policy experts.

**Wednesday, May 1, 2013**

***Hyatt Regency • 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor • Mineral A***

- 8:30 AM – 9:15 AM**      **Welcome, Introductions and Overview of the Day**  
Julie Poppe and Brian Weberg, National Conference of State Legislatures
- 9:15 AM – 10:45 AM**      **Building a Foundation for Achievement: How Early Experiences Shape Brain Architecture**  
Advances in neuroscience, molecular biology, and genomics now help us better understand why healthy development in the early years provides the building blocks for educational achievement, economic productivity, and lifelong health. The basic architecture of the brain is constructed through a process that begins early in life, continues into adulthood, and is powerfully affected by the experiences and environment of relationships in which children develop. Learn how these early experiences are built into our bodies and brains, and about the complex set of skills scientists believe are foundational for success in school and in life. Participants will also hear about Washington state’s effort to create and implement effective policies

and programs based on the science. A facilitated discussion will end the session to reflect on the research presented.

Introduction: Robyn Lipkowitz, National Conference of State Legislatures

Facilitator: Brian Weberg, National Conference of State Legislatures

- Al Race, Center on the Developing Child

**10:45 AM – 11:00 AM Break**

**11:00 AM – 12:15 PM Moving Forward with Home Visiting**

Extensive research shows that evidence-based, voluntary home visiting programs improve child and family outcomes, and save money for states and taxpayers. With the passage of the federal Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program, there has been an expansion of programs across almost every state. This session will highlight what states are doing to address quality implementation of programs, assuring accountability and innovate ways to address ongoing financing. A facilitated discussion will follow the presentations.

Moderator: Robyn Lipkowitz, National Conference of State Legislatures

- Ingrid Stegemoeller, Pew Home Visiting Campaign
- Mimi Aledo-Sandoval, New Mexico Legislative Finance Committee

**12:15 PM – 1:30 PM Lunch and Keynote Presentation: Emerging Policy Ideas in Early Learning**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Floor - Mineral B**

Introduction: Sheri Steisel, National Conference of State Legislatures

Keynote presenter: Steve Barnett, National Institute for Early Education Research

Steve Barnett's presentation will kick off an interactive conversation about emerging policy ideas in early learning and what the future holds. Fellows are encouraged to engage in the discussion and contribute thoughts in response to the keynote.

**1:30 PM – 1:45 PM Break**

**1:45 PM – 3:00 PM Learning to Read-Reading to Learn: Early Literacy Strategies**

By the end of third grade, students need to be reading to learn, rather than learning to read. This session will highlight a comprehensive policy framework that includes the research behind early literacy, the gap between what we know and what we are doing and a comprehensive

policy framework that can address these gaps. There are a range of state early childhood policies that have played an important role in bolstering 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading proficiency. Participants will learn about strategies that states have used to support early literacy success. State legislators from Colorado will discuss HB 12-1238, the Colorado's Early Literacy Act.

Moderator: Tom Massey, former Colorado State Representative

- Albert Wat, National Governors Association
- Senators Michael Johnston & Mark Scheffel, Colorado

**3:00 PM – 3:15 PM**

**Break**

**3:15 PM – 4:30 PM**

**Pay for Success: Innovative Financing to Support Early Childhood Programs**

In tight budget times, policymakers are examining new and innovative ways to finance the services children need. This session will provide information on performance-based investing: an innovative financing strategy that is gaining popularity. Speakers will discuss social impact bonds, or “pay for performance,” including a national overview of a successful functioning model and South Carolina’s efforts to adapt this model for supporting home visiting.

Moderator: Gloria Higgins, Executives Partnering to Invest in Children

- George Overholser, Third Sector Capital Partners
- Joe Waters, Institute for Child Success

**4:30 PM – 5:00 PM**

**Reflections from the Day**

Fellows will reflect on the information gained from the science, early literacy, home visiting and funding sessions.

- Brian Weberg, National Conference of State Legislatures

**5:00 PM – 6:00 PM**

**Free Time**

**6:00 PM – 8:00 PM**

**Reception and Dinner**

**Maggiano’s**

16th St. Mall Promenade

Glenarm and 16<sup>th</sup> (cross streets)

(easy five-minute walk from the Hyatt)

**Thursday, May 2, 2013**

**Hyatt Regency • 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**

**8:00 AM – 8:30 AM      Breakfast and Networking with Fellows**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Floor – Mineral B**

**8:30 AM – 9:45 AM      The Link between Playful Learning, Self-Regulation and Academic Achievement**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Floor – Mineral A**

This session will build on yesterday's discussion about brain development, and provide a more in-depth look at self-regulation/executive function (SR/EF) and the link between SR/EF skills and later school achievement. Participants will hear about 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. In addition, participants will hear about recent knowledge gained from international research studying children at play.

Moderator: Jack Tweedie, National Conference of State Legislatures

- Deborah Leong, Tools of the Mind
- Kathleen Alfano, Fisher-Price, Inc.

**9:45 AM – 11:45 AM      Policy Concurrent Sessions and Breakouts**

These sessions will give Fellows more time with a national expert on an early learning topic.

*9:45 AM – 10:45 AM      Concurrent Session I (Choose one session to attend)*

- *Kindergarten Assessments:* Tom Schultz, Council of Chief State School Officers, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor – Mineral A
- *Improving Early Reading Proficiency:* Kathy Christie, Education Commission of the States, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor – Mineral B

*10:45 AM – 11:45 AM      Concurrent Session II (Choose one session to attend)*

- *Using Data to Promote Better Outcomes:* Domenico "Mimmo" Parisi, National Strategic Planning & Analysis Research Center, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor – Mineral A
- *Child Care Quality:* Gerrit Westervelt, Build, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor – Mineral B

**11:45 AM – Noon      Next Steps and Wrap Up**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Floor – Mineral A**

Discuss what is in store for the Fellows program in 2013.

- Robyn Lipkowitz, National Conference of State Legislatures