



Kickoff Meeting: Building State Leadership

Hilton Omaha • 1001 Cass St. • Omaha

This meeting will set the stage for the eighth cohort of NCSL's Early Learning Fellows. Throughout the fellowship, participants will work toward achieving the following goals in a peer-learning setting with facilitated small-group learning opportunities.

Goals include:

- Gain knowledge about new research and policy options.
- Exchange ideas and solutions related to early learning, the early opportunity gap and many other birth-to-8 issues.
- Connect with other legislative leaders.
- Gain practical information for use in their state.
- Develop an early learning action plan.
- Connect with leading researchers and policy experts.

Wednesday, June 5, 2019 • North Patio

6-8 p.m.

Reception and Meet and Greet

Socialize with legislative colleagues, NCSL staff and invited faculty.

Thursday, June 6, 2019 • St. Nicholas A/B • Second Floor

8-8:30 a.m.

Breakfast and Networking

8:30-9:15 a.m.

Welcome, Introductions and Early Care and Education Overview

Following an introduction to the 2019 cohort of Early Learning Fellows, NCSL staff will provide a high-level overview of the who, what and why of early care and education and its many components.

Presenters

- Alison May, NCSL
- Jennifer Palmer, NCSL

9:15-10:45 a.m.

Brain Science: How Early Experiences Shape the Brain

More than 1 million new neural connections are formed every second in the first few years of a child's life. This interactive session will explore the latest research on early brain development and how everyday experiences support children's learning in all domains.

Moderator

- Alison May, NCSL

Speaker

- Sarah Lytle, Institute for Learning & Brain Sciences, University of Washington

10:45-11 a.m.	Break
11 a.m.-12:15 p.m.	<p>Economic Return on Investments in Early Childhood and How to Sustain the Gains</p> <p>Research shows that high-quality early childhood education produces a significant return on investment. Learn how economists quantify the rate of return and what needs to be done to sustain the gains long term.</p> <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Julie Poppe, NCSL <p>Speaker</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rob Grunewald, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis
12:15-1:15 p.m.	Lunch
1:15-2:30 p.m.	<p>Quality and Access: The Dynamic Duo of Child Care</p> <p>High-quality child care supports healthy development and school readiness in young children, enables parents to work or complete coursework, and allows community and state economies to flourish. And yet, for many families it remains out of reach due to availability, cost or both. Learn from the experts what high-quality child care looks like, why it matters, and what states are doing to improve access for families.</p> <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jennifer Palmer, NCSL <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kate Gallagher, Buffett Early Childhood Institute, University of Nebraska Karen Schulman, National Women’s Law Center
2:30-2:45 p.m.	Break
2:45-4 p.m.	<p>What Makes Quality Prekindergarten for our Young Learners</p> <p>Learn about the components of a high-quality pre-K classroom from a national expert. Ellen Frede will break down this topic and share findings from the National Institute for Early Education Research’s most recent State of Preschool yearbook. Fellows will have the opportunity to ask questions about their own state data.</p> <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jorge Casares, NCSL <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ellen Frede, National Institute for Early Education Research, Rutgers University
4-4:30 p.m.	<p>Early Learning Planning: Thinking Through Your Top Priorities</p> <p>Identify your top priorities in a small-group setting and begin to work on your individual Early Learning action plan worksheet.</p>
5:30-7:30 p.m.	Dinner and Keynote Address (<i>Location: Buffett Early Childhood Fund Office</i>)

Friday, June 7, 2019 • St. Nicholas A/B • Second Floor

8-8:30 a.m.	Breakfast and Networking
8:30 a.m.	Shuttle Departs for Educare Site Visit

9-11:30 a.m.

Educare Site Visit *(2123 Paul Street)*

Visit Educare of Omaha at Kellom Elementary, a nationally recognized, high-quality early childhood program that produces positive results for low-income children and parents. Learn how Educare and programs like it are helping at-risk children prepare for kindergarten success and achieve academic benchmarks into the early grades.

Discuss the role state legislatures can play in developing high-quality early childhood education and learn how strategic collaborations and partnerships, blended funding, strong evaluations and parent involvement can achieve better outcomes for children, families and communities.

11:30 a.m.

Shuttle Returns to Hotel

Noon-1 p.m.

Lunch and Debrief

1-2:15 p.m.

Early Childhood the Nebraska Way

Explore through a handful of short interactive presentations the past, present and future work related to early learning taking place throughout Nebraska. Learn about Six Pence, the Buffett Early Childhood Institute at the University of Nebraska, early learning communities, infant and early childhood mental health, and how Nebraska is focusing attention on the rural areas of the state. Discuss what has worked and what you might be able to bring back to your state.

Moderator

- Jessie Rasmussen, Buffett Early Childhood Fund

2:15-2:45 p.m.

Next Steps and Wrap Up

Fellows will share one action they will take before the second meeting.

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