



June 6-8, 2018 | Denver, Colorado

Kickoff Meeting: Building State Leadership

The Westin Denver Downtown • 1672 Lawrence Street • Denver

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

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

Wednesday, June 6, 2018 • *V's Lounge (hotel bar)*

6-8 p.m. **Reception and Meet and Greet**

Introductions

- **Wade Fickler, NCSL**

Thursday, June 7, 2018 • *Lawrence A&B – Mezzanine Level*

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

8:30-9 a.m. **Welcome, Introductions and Overview of the Day**

- Julie Poppe and Matt Weyer, NCSL

9-10:30 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 explores the latest research on brain development and how early everyday experiences support children's learning in all domains.

Introduction

- Julie Poppe, NCSL

Speaker

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

10:30-10:45 a.m. **Break**

10:45-12:15 p.m.

The Opportunity Gap, Its Economic Implications and How Data Can Help

Low-income five-year-olds are entering kindergarten an average of 11-13 months behind their peers from middle- and high-income families in math and reading skills, with these gaps generally persisting throughout their K-12 education. These gaps hold significant economic consequences for states as students enter adulthood. Effective use of data at the school- and classroom-levels can help state policymakers close these gaps and realize improved economic and societal benefits.

Moderators

- Madeleine Webster and Matt Weyer, NCSL

Speakers

- Katrina Miller, Statistical Analysis System
- Margie Vandeven, Statistical Analysis System

12:15-1 p.m.

Lunch

1-2 p.m.

Roundtable: Birth through Five Policy Priorities

Highlight and discuss policy priorities with colleagues and researchers.

Facilitator

- Wade Fickler, NCSL

2-2:30 p.m.

Early Learning Planning: Thinking Through Your Top Priorities

Identify your top priorities in a small group setting and begin to work on your individual Early Learning Plan worksheet.

2:30-3:45 p.m.

Promoting High-Quality Child Care Through an Effective Workforce

Nearly 2 million adults make a living caring for and educating more than 12 million young children (infants to preschoolers), but close to half of this workforce receive some type of government assistance. This session will focus on national and state policy efforts to promote quality settings by supporting and strengthening the early learning workforce. Examples include educator degrees or credential requirements, compensation, workforce retention and professional development.

Moderator

- Albert Wat, Alliance for Early Success

Speakers

- Lauren Hogan, National Association for the Education of Young Children
- Jennifer Stedron, Early Milestones Colorado

3:45-4 p.m.

Break

4-5:15 p.m.

Home Visiting and the Role the Legislature Plays

Early childhood home visiting can help families meet children's needs during the critical first five years of development. Legislatures play an important role in creating a home visiting system with shared accountability and reporting on results. Learn from a national expert about home visiting trends, improved outcomes of children and state examples from Colorado, Missouri, New Mexico and Oklahoma.

Introduction

- Alison May, NCSL

Speakers

- Kay Johnson, Johnson Group Consulting

5:15-5:30 p.m.

Closing Thoughts and Reflections

Share one takeaway from today's meeting.

Enjoy Dinner on your own in Denver

Friday, June 8, 2018 • *Lawrence A&B – Mezzanine Level*

8-8:30 a.m.

Breakfast and Networking

8:30 a.m.

Bus departs for tour & site visit

9-11:30 a.m.

Tour & Site Visit

3801 M.L.K. Jr Blvd, Denver, CO 80205

Take part in a site visit to Educare of Denver at the Clayton Early Learning Center, a nationally recognized, high-quality early childhood program that produces positive results for low-income children and parents. Learn how programs like Educare are helping children and families living in under-resourced and under-served communities prepare for kindergarten success and achieve sustained academic benchmarks into the early grades. Observe first-hand how teachers translate research and evaluation into positive and stimulating early learning environments. Discuss the role that state legislatures can play in developing high-quality early childhood education and learn how strategic collaborations and partnerships can achieve intergenerational outcomes for children, families and communities.

11:30 a.m.

Bus returns to The Westin Denver Downtown

Noon-1 p.m.

Lunch

1-2 p.m.

Foundational Importance of Children's Social and Emotional Development

This session will focus on how young children's social and emotional development sets the stage for success later in life. Learn about two approaches to supporting the mental health of young children. Attention will be paid to supports that states can put in place to improve developmental outcomes and reduce downstream costs, such as school suspension and expulsion, special education and juvenile justice contacts.

Introduction

- Julie Poppe, NCSL

Speakers

- Phil Strain, National Center for Pyramid Model Innovations, University of Denver
- Molly Yost, Early Milestones Colorado

2-2:30 p.m.

Next Steps and Wrap Up

Share one action you plan to take before our second meeting.

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