



## Early Learning Fellows Legislative Corner

October 2016

### Utah Expands Access to High Quality School Readiness Programs



Fifth year (2016) NCSL Early Learning Fellow Senator Ann Millner (R-Utah) sponsored a school readiness poverty bill that was enacted. The enacted bill ([SB 101](#)) expands access to high quality school readiness programs. Senator Millner's enacted bill:

- Creates the Intergenerational Poverty School Readiness Scholarship Program.
- Provides for scholarships to help support early childhood teachers to receive a Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential.
- Allows the state board to administer a home-based technology school readiness program.

- Requires an evaluation of the school readiness programs.

The state will transfer/spend around \$11 million in Temporary Assistance to Needy Families along with some general funds to support the school readiness and poverty scholarship programs.

### Nebraska Increasing Access to Quality Early Care and Education



Fifth year (2016) Senator John Stinner (NP-Neb.) co-sponsored a school readiness tax credit bill ([LB 899](#)) that was enacted. The new law creates two new tax credits. One credit is for Nebraska's early childhood workforce and the other is for the quality early childhood programs that participate in Nebraska's quality rating improvement rating system [Step Up to Quality](#). The new tax credits are based on [Louisiana's package of tax credits](#) for school readiness enacted in 2007. Nebraska's [tax credits](#) will be available for the 2017 tax year for early childhood teachers who are employed at a Step Up to Quality program and have a CDA credential or a one-year early childhood certificate or diploma; and for programs with at least a

step three (out of five) quality rating.

#### 2016 FELLOWS IN THE NEWS

» **Rep. Helen Giddings** (D-Texas) Had a March 21, 2016 [press release](#) highlighting her being named as an Early Learning Fellow.

» **Rep. Paul Tucker** (D-Mass.) Featured in the [Eye on Early Education blog post](#), June 21, 2016.

» **Rep. Joe Deshotel** (D-Texas) Shares his experience as an Early Learning Fellow in the [June 2016 Newsletter](#).

» **Sen. John Stinner** (NP-Neb.) Featured in the [Scottsbluff Star Herald](#), Sept. 21, 2016.

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[cyf-info@ncsl.org](mailto:cyf-info@ncsl.org)