

The Campaign for High Quality Early Learning Standards in California and the English Language Learners Preschool Coalition

(A Coalition of Concerned Individuals and Organizations)

Lead Members

JUDY CASHEL

FRAN CHASEN

RICHARD COHEN

RENATTA COOPER

SALLY DURBIN

IMELDA FOLEY

Ana Gamiz

LINDA GORDON

ADRIENNE GUNN

ALAN GUTTMAN

DOROTHY HASKIN

CAROL HESTAND

BETSY HITESHEW

TINA L. JASIUKONIS

ELLEN JUNN

ELLEN KHOKHA

TERRY LERNIHAN

Antonia López

Gary Mangioficio

MARILYN McGRATH

Katrina Mendiola

PAUL MILLER

ERIC NELSON

Rachelle Pastor

GAILE PRICE

Maria Quezada

ARLENE RHINE

CARMELA SAINZ-ANDERSON

ANGELICA SOLIS

EDITH SPAIN

Shelly Spiegel-

Coleman

JULIE TAREN

JENNY TRICKEY

GREGORY UBA

Diane Ujjiye

LISA WILKIN

NORMAN YEE

Martha Zaragoza Díaz

DOCIA ZAVITKOVSKY

Dear Friends and Fellow Advocates:

The CHQELS and the ELLPC thanks you for your support in our efforts and for your commitment to ensuring that children's best interests are protected under the newly developed CA Preschool Learning Foundations. As you may know, the CHQELS and the ELLPC (hereafter referred to as the Coalition) have been working over the past two and a half years to ensure that the preschool learning foundations represent the needs and priorities of children. Over 200 organizations and individuals have signed up to support The Coalition's efforts and position regarding the preschool foundations. We have come a long way in making improvements to the preschool foundations. The work that the coalition has accomplished has been made possible with the support of dedicated people like you – teachers, administrators, researchers, ECE support staff, students, advocates and many others that contributed to the success of this powerful movement.

Over the last six months representatives from The Coalition have met with state legislators, members of the field, state organizations, the California Department of Education (CDE) representatives and most recently with State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell to reiterate The Coalition's position on the foundations. The foundations are currently being revised based on the latest feedback that the CDE received in November 2007 and are expected to be completed at the beginning of 2008. The CDE is reportedly working on a timeline for the implementation of the foundations and the development of a framework that will accompany these but details have not been released.

We have heard different stories regarding reactions to the foundations and the implementation of these and many of the stories are discouraging. One program director detailed the following:

"Things are already being guided by the proposed foundations in our district. At the beginning of the year, we had to align our school's "smart goals" with the foundations. Just before Thanksgiving, we had a district wide "literacy training". The presenter insisted that because of the foundations, all we should be teaching is Reading and Writing and academics...He still insisted that children will learn to play and social skills at home, and that all we needed to teach was the 3 "r's" during the time they are with us...The 'Foundations' have already become 'Standards', and our higher ups have already discovered how to teach to them in the worst possible ways. Just thought I'd share."

As the implementation of the Foundations approaches we are seeking your input on how we may best advocate for the interests of children and programs. Please complete the survey below so that we may better know your priorities and suggestions for the direction we should take on behalf of children, you, and your program. You can fax the completed survey to Angelica Solis at (213) 250-0105 or email to angelica@afabc.org.

Sincerely,

CHQELS and ELLPC (The Coalition)

1. I represent the following in the field of ECE:

- Advocate
- Teacher's Aide
- College Educator
- School/Program Administrator
- Researcher
- Other
- Teacher

2. I have seen the latest drafts of the CA Preschool Foundations. (Note: Those released by the CDE in November 2007).

- Yes
- No

3. If you attended a CA Preschool Foundation feedback session in 2007, please indicate the session(s) you attended. Please mark all that apply.

- Stakeholder meeting in Sacramento
- Input Session hosted by CPIN
- Public Hearing session
- Provided input through CDE Website
- Provided input to CDE over email or fax
- Other

4. The following are still my concerns about the Foundations. Please mark all that apply.

- The age specific format
- The volume/number of foundations
- Orientation to academics without context for how children learn through play and interact with their environment
- How the English Language Development foundations will relate to the other foundations
- The use of and instruction through the home language for meeting foundation benchmarks
- Other

5. Which one of the following best reflects how you will respond to the implementation of the Foundations? Please check only one.

- I plan to implement them exactly as the State directs us to
- I plan to implement them in my program only if they are developmentally appropriate and culturally sensitive
- I plan to adapt, implement, and align them to my existing program (not necessarily in accordance with State direction)
- I plan not to implement them

6. How do you think The Coalition can best serve the interests of children and programs? Please check all that apply.

- I believe The Coalition should continue to meet with State officials throughout the implementation process to give feedback from the field
- I believe The Coalition should work with the state to ensure that the Foundations implementation process is developmentally appropriate, culturally sensitive, and includes paid training days for staff
- I believe The Coalition should continue to resist state efforts to implement the Foundations
- I believe the Coalition should draft alternative standards for the field that are meaningful, developmentally appropriate, culturally sensitive and 'realistic' for teachers to implement
- I believe The Coalition should continue to hold stakeholder forums during the implementation process
- I believe The Coalition should stop resisting state efforts and accept the state's plan for implementation of the Foundations

7. Please provide us with any thoughts you may have concerning the Foundations and their implementation.