

# Rising to the Challenge: Building Effective Systems for Young Children and Families

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**Build**  
INITIATIVE  
Strong Foundations For  
Our Youngest Children





# Rising to the Challenge

The Purpose of BUILD's Rising to the Challenge E-Book :

- Document initial implementation
- Share information about trends and experiences

Approach:

- ECE experts as authors
- Advisory committee (state, local and national)

Chapters:

- 9 total





# Early Learning Roadmap



Governance



Quality Early Learning Programs



Linkages





# Early Learning Roadmap

- Whole child
- Quality a priority
- Children with the greatest need
- State & locally driven
- Systems approach







# Governance

## **A Backbone of Support to Ensure Functionality and Quality**

- Governor's office: OH
- One state agency/all programs: MD, WA
- Peer coordination: CO

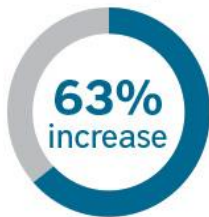




# Quality Early Learning Programs

## Quality Rating and Improvement Systems An Innovative Framework to Improve Quality and Outcomes

Measurably improved quality:



in the number of programs at  
the highest level of quality



in number of programs enrolled in Quality  
Rating and Improvement Systems (QRIS)

Increased enrollment of children with high needs in highest quality programs:



= 10,000



An increase of more than **127,000** children  
enrolled in top tiers of their state's QRIS



# Quality Early Learning Programs

## Workforce Essential to Deliver Quality Learning

- Tied professional development supports and QRIS: WA
- Career advancement: OR, RI
- Coaching: CO
- Compensation and teacher supports - not well addressed





# Quality Early Learning Programs

## Standards and Assessments to Enrich Quality Instruction and Learning Opportunities

- Assessment and implementation support in child care: NM
- Experimentation with Kindergarten Entrance Assessment models: OH, NC, WA





# Quality Early Learning Programs

## **DATA: A Key for Effective Quality Programs**

- Accessible data systems: WI, MN
- Working with Head Start: IL





# Linkages

## **Local Coalitions Inform and Influence Statewide and Local Decision-Making**

- New coalitions: GA, MD
- Expanded existing coalitions: CA, VT
- New intermediaries: OR
- Skill building: NC, MD





# Linkages

## Earliest Years Through Elementary Years

- On-the-ground approach: MA, NJ





# Linkages

## Engaging the Health Community

- Developmental screening: MI
- Early childhood mental health: DE
- Physical health: VT

Increased access to developmental screening for children with high needs:  = 10,000



An increase of more than **150,000** children with high needs who received screening





# Sustainability

## Impressive Gains in States





# Systems Support Children

***“As we invest in systems, we invest in laying sturdy, sustainable groundwork that can support the whole child and reach every child. Learning from, and building on the success of the ELC, is an opportunity we cannot afford to miss.”***



# Want to Learn More?

## A BUILD E-BOOK

*Rising to the Challenge: Building Effective  
Systems for Young Children and Families*



# Heather Moss

Deputy Director  
Washington Department of Early Learning



Washington State Department of  
**Early Learning**

# Setting the Stage

- Washington Department of Early Learning:
  - a cabinet-level early learning agency created in 2006.
- Our service area:
  - Diverse array of family home, center, school-age settings to serve children and families.
- Leadership:
  - Ross Hunter, Director
  - Heather Moss, Deputy Director
  - Assistant Directors
  - Partners (Child Care Aware of Washington, Thrive Washington, etc.)
- Research and Data:
  - DEL has a strong culture, dedicated to making data-driven policy decisions.

# Success Stories

- Early Learning Challenge provided \$60M over 4 years, 2010-2016
- Since then, we have been able to:
  - Align stakeholder partnerships
  - Earn the support of our State legislature
  - See the passage of the Early Start Act (ESA)
    - Washington's ELC sustainability plan
  - Use Early Start Act momentum as a foundation for our Child Care and Development Fund reauthorization



# Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge

- DEL's 2010 strategy:
  - Write a bold, transformational proposal
  - Focus on the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS), Professional Development, and the WaKIDS assessment
  - Stay limited to building capacity/ infrastructure to address scalability
  - Include a strong evaluation component



# Building State Capacity (*the softer side*)

- DEL's Strategy:
  - Sell it to the stakeholders after the grant was awarded
  - Show the Legislature we could implement statewide
  - Bolster relationship with University of Washington and early learning science/data
  - See Washington State emerge in the national scene





# The Early Start Act

## *(Passed in 2015)*

- Early Start Act
  - Continues, expands efforts started with the Challenge
  - Mandates subsidy participation in QRIS
  - Calls for aligned standards
  - Supports professional development and other provider supports
    - (substitute pool)
  - Calls for child-level data
  - Mandates state-funded preschool to rate a Level 4, and to develop pathways for centers and homes

# Other Federal Initiatives in Washington

- Child Care and Development Fund reauthorization
  - increase health/safety standards, focus on quality, provide supports, allow families more stability
- EHS-CC partnerships
  - adequately fund high-quality for 0-3
- Federal audit(s)
  - increase financial/programmatic controls
- MIECHV, Head Start expansion, State Longitudinal Data Systems
  - P20 data warehouse, longitudinal evaluation



# Lessons Learned

- Transformational change is possible, but it takes bold vision and a **LONG** time
- Don't underestimate importance of **CHAMPIONS**
  - (legislative, stakeholders)
- Pay attention to **CHANGE MANAGEMENT** needs of staff across all programs
- Be ready to take advantage of **MOMENTUM**

# What's Next

- Workforce
  - COMPENSATION
  - Degree attainment, workforce capacity
- Facilities
  - almost doubling our State preschool program in four years
- Whole child (comprehensive services), whole family (two-generation work) and whole community (media campaigns) focus





# Questions?

