



EARLY LEARNING COUNCIL

Resolution in Support of Early Learning System Responses to the Pandemic

April 9, 2020

SUE MILLER
*Early Learning Council
Chair*

Whereas the Early Learning Council is charged with coordinating a unified and aligned system of early learning throughout Oregon to ensure that all children, no matter what their zip code, race and family income, enter school ready to learn and that all families are healthy, stable and attached;

PATRICK ALLEN
*Director, Oregon Health
Authority*

Whereas the Early Learning Council recognizes the value of quality early care and education to supporting healthy child development and learning along with providing support to families;

ANGELA BLACKWELL

Whereas the State of Oregon is mounting a significant effort to protect public health and safety, promote and protect child development and learning, support families and communities, and sustain Oregon's economy during the pandemic;

PETER BUCKLEY

Whereas the Early Learning Council recognizes that the children of essential workers may require childcare and that childcare must be developmentally appropriate and as safe as possible for children and childcare personnel;

KATY BROOKS

COLT GILL
*Deputy Superintendent,
Oregon Department of
Education*

Whereas the Early Learning Council recognizes the fragile infrastructure of childcare and that the current situation threatens the sustainability of the childcare provider community;

ANNE KUBISCH

Whereas the Early Learning Council recognizes the ongoing importance of an equity lens in this time of crisis, addressing issues of poverty, geography, race, language and ethnicity;

GEORGE MENDOZA

Now, therefore, the Early Learning Council

MARGARET MILLER

1. Commends Governor Kate Brown for addressing the immediate childcare needs of essential workers and for supporting childcare providers to meet those needs.

EVA RIPPETEAU

2. Supports the proposed Emergency Child Care Fund and its goals to:

- Provide resources to Emergency Child Care programs to address the additional financial burden of providing emergency care;
- Compensate the frontline staff who are providing and supporting emergency childcare;
- Assist parents who are essential workers who may need help with tuition and are not eligible for other forms of childcare assistance, and
- Provide financial assistance to childcare programs that are not currently open in order to avoid losing critical childcare infrastructure.

MARGARET SALAZAR
*Executive Director,
Oregon Housing and
Community Services*

3. Encourages public agencies and community partners to explore ways in which early care and education programs including home visiting, child care, pre-k, Head Start, early intervention and early childhood special education can support state efforts to maintain contact with families whom they serve, including those of exceptionally high vulnerability such as children living in poverty, families facing housing instability and families participating in the foster care system.

KALI THORNE LADD

4. Recommends the development of a longer-term plan to sustain the childcare system in Oregon so that it can provide high-quality, affordable, culturally appropriate early care and education throughout Oregon.

LIESL WENDT
*Deputy Director, Oregon
Department of Human
Services*

MIRIAM CALDERON
*Early Learning System
Director*