



**NORTH CAROLINA
EARLY EDUCATION COALITION**

Tuesdays for Tots

NCGA Legislative Session Summary Leandro Updates

June 30, 2020



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The NC Early Education Coalition is a proud partner in the national ZERO TO THREE Think Babies™ campaign and in the Pritzker Children's Initiative's National Collaborative for Infants and Toddlers.

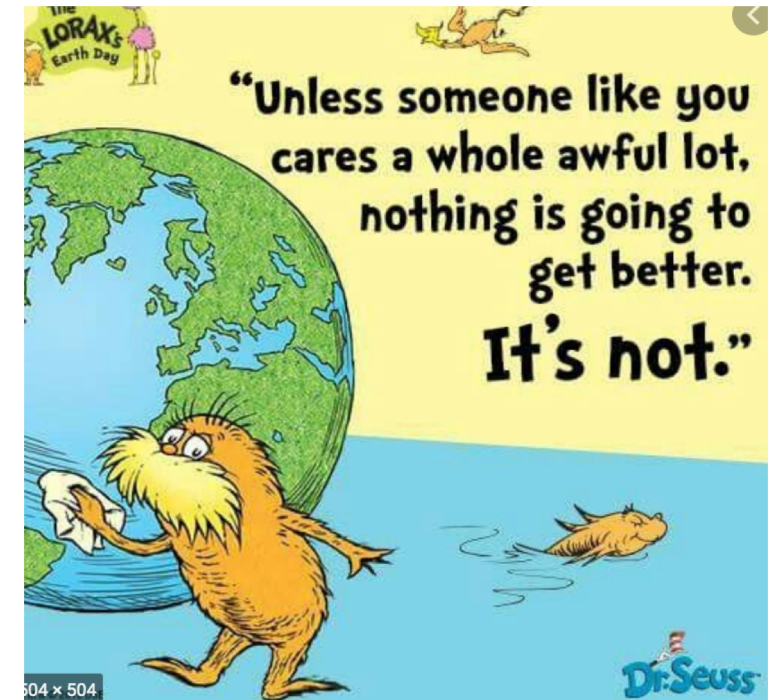
Message of Hope from Elliott



“There’s a light
at the end of
the tunnel!”

Goals for Today

- Leandro Update – Special Guest Henrietta Zalkind
- Legislative Session Summary
- Advocacy Tips
 - Child Care is Essential Video
 - Advocacy Toolkit



Today's Opening Connection

What is the one thing you are secretly pleased that you don't have to do now because of COVID-19?



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Leandro Update

Henrietta Zalkind

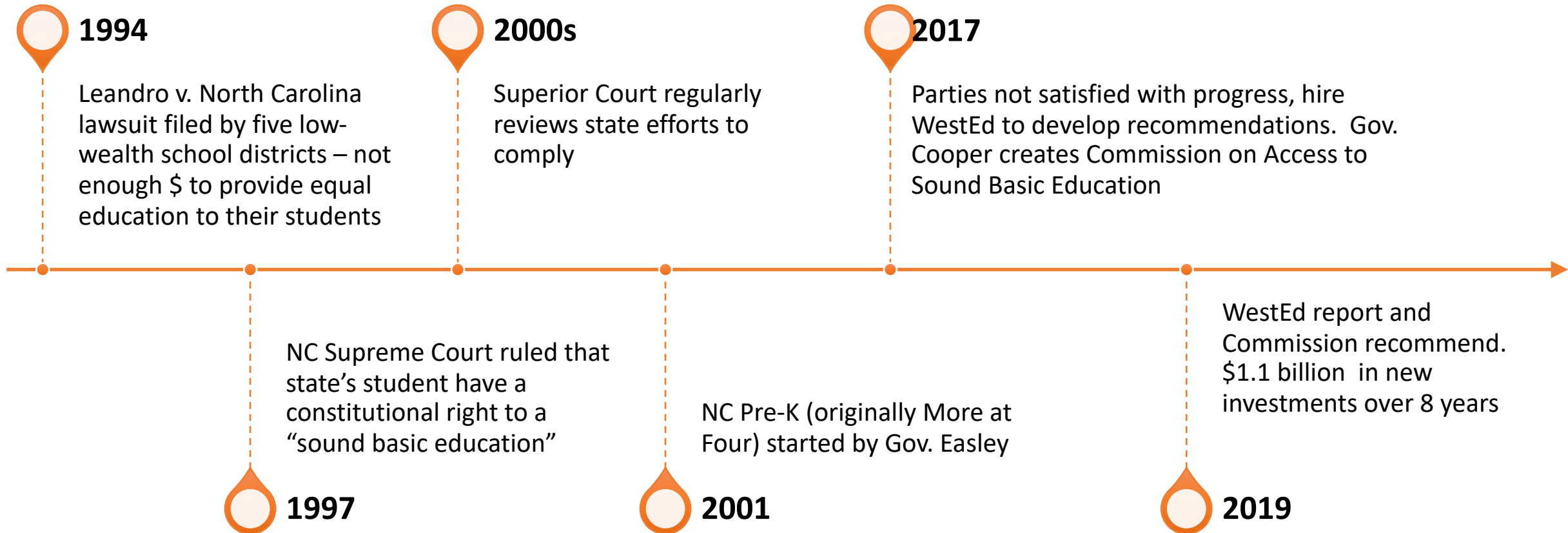
Director, Down East Partnership for Children
Chair, Early Childhood Workgroup, Commission for Sound Basic Education



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Background on Leandro




Action Plan Summary

Early Childhood Priorities - \$35.6M for FY 20201



smart start

\$10M to begin scaling up Smart Start.



NC Pre-K
Prekindergarten Program

\$10.5M to increase the rate per slot by \$200 and raise the administrator rate to 10% for NC PreK.

WORKFORCE

\$7M to expand early childhood salary supplements like WAGE\$ and AWARD\$.

EARLY INTERVENTION

\$7M recurring and \$650K nonrecurring to expand and strengthen the NC Infant-Toddler Program/early intervention.

EARLY CHILDHOOD DATA

\$500K to build an early childhood education workforce data system including degrees, licensure, demographics, place of employment, and wages.

HIGH QUALITY LEARNING FOR BIRTH TO THREE

A feasibility and cost study for a birth-to-3 program modeled on NC PreK and a study to develop alternatives to NC's current market rate model. Currently grant funded.

KINDERGARTEN TRANSITIONS

Pilot program to support greater information sharing between families, prekindergarten, and kindergarten teachers and align the Kindergarten Entry Assessment with birth through third grade. Currently grant funded.

Why is Leandro important for young children and their families?

- Investments in early childhood education help create the foundation for success for the other elements the K-12 system to improve educational outcomes for all children,
- Early childhood programs prioritize enrollments for children who are at-risk including low-income children, children with disabilities, and English learners.
- Our state-funded early childhood programs have been recognized nationally for their high quality and effectiveness in improving student outcomes and reducing achievement gaps.
- But far too many families lack access to these programs, as they only serve about half of eligible children.

Leandro Legislation 2020

H1130 – Invest in Sound Basic Education, Reps. Von Haefen (Wake), Gill (Wake), Hunt (Mecklenburg), Russell (Ashe, Watauga), Early Childhood Provisions

- \$10.5M Increase reimbursement rate for slots for NC PreK
- \$10M NCPC for Smart Start Partnerships
- \$3M increase recruitment and retention for quality early childhood educators
- \$7M to DPH for Infant-Toddler Program

Status: Introduced, but not heard in Committee

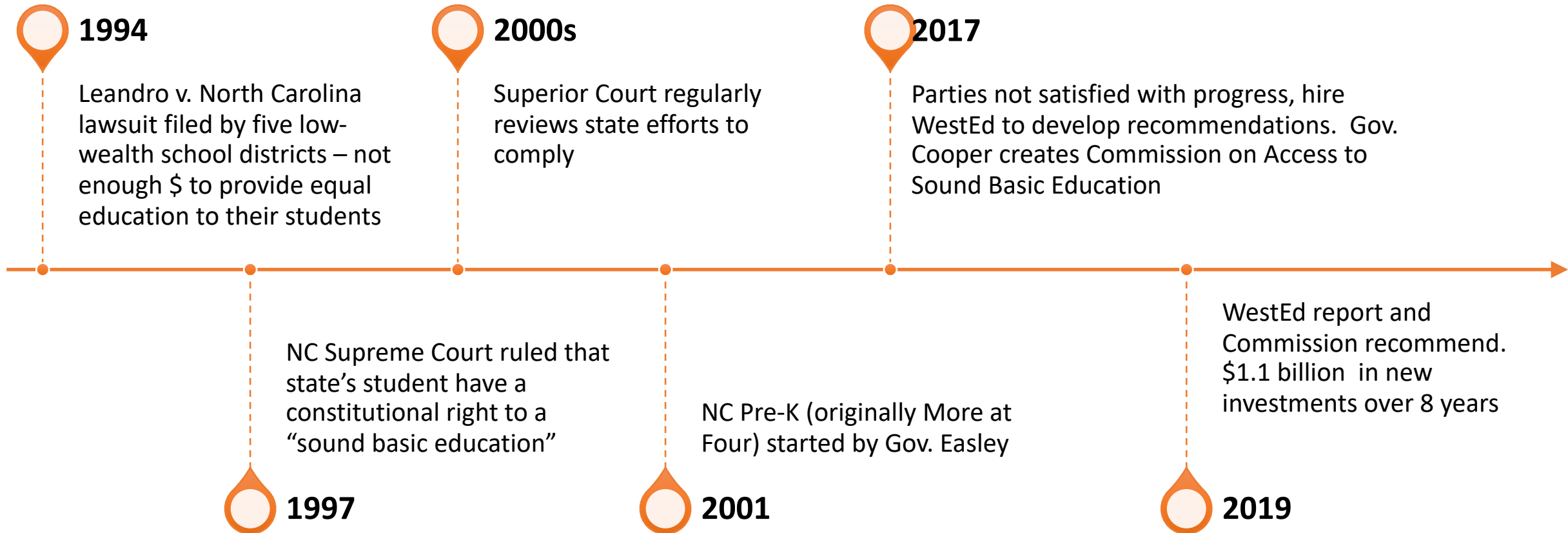
Communities for the Education of Every Child NC



Website www.everychildnc.org

- New coalition calling on North Carolina and lawmakers to comply with constitutional duty to provide a sound, basic education to all children
- Mobilizing community leaders, parents, students, educators, and advocates around a common goal: to invest boldly and equitably in education for all children
- Follow on social media @EveryChildNC and #LeadWithLeandro

Leandro Timeline



Where Do We Go From Here?



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2020 Short Session Summary



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2020 Short Session Overview

- Started April 29th – middle of the COVID crisis
- Short session had multiple rounds
- COVID was the driver
 - Bills introduced, considered - only COVID related heard in committees
 - No state budget adjustments
 - Only budgeting of federal funds – COVID, block grants
 - No new or old policy bills were taken up
- House Health Workgroup on COVID-19 primary vehicle
- Nothing similar in the Senate
- Legislature met virtually until Phase 2 of reopening, May 22nd

Short Session

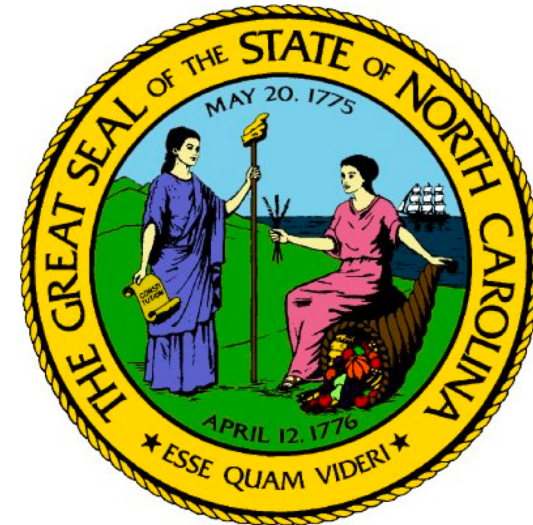
- **Focus on educating policymakers** about the child care crisis and what is needed to stabilize and rebuild the system
- **Focus on the Why Child Care is Essential –**
 - ✓ **For children's healthy development and early learning**
 - ✓ **For families to be able to work and return to work**
 - ✓ **For the state's economic prosperity and economic recovery**
- **Two Hearings**
 - **House COVID 19 Workgroup – NCPC and Smart Start partnerships**
 - **Special Hearing on Child Care – NC Early Education Coalition**



NC Legislative Short Session Summary

What Happened?

- Short Session focused on COVID-19 issues
- Appropriated \$118M for child care from federal CARES package
- \$20M additional COVID money for early childhood assistance (S808 – waiting Governor's signature)
- Session ended....paused...until September 2nd
- No budget passed – budget for 2018 is the operating budget
- Still facing budget short fall of \$5 billion - impact 2021 budget



Early Childhood Education Related Legislation

- **H1117 – Protect Child Care Workers/Covid-19, Reps. von Haefen (Wake), Belk (Mecklenburg), Hunt (Mecklenburg), Fisher (Buncombe) primary sponsors**
 - Increased bonuses for child care teachers and staff
 - Health and sanitation supplied, PPE, and deep cleaning services
 - Covers testing costs
 - Additional child care health consultants
- **H1130 – Invest in Sound Basic Education, Reps. Von Haefen (Wake), Gill (Wake), Hunt (Mecklenburg), Russell (Ashe,Watauga), Early Childhood Provisions**
 - \$10.5M Increase reimbursement rate for slots for NC PreK,
 - \$10M NCPC for Smart Start Partnerships,
 - \$3M increase recruitment and retention for quality early childhood educators
 - \$7M to DPH for Infant-Toddler Program

Questions?





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Advocacy Tips and Strategies



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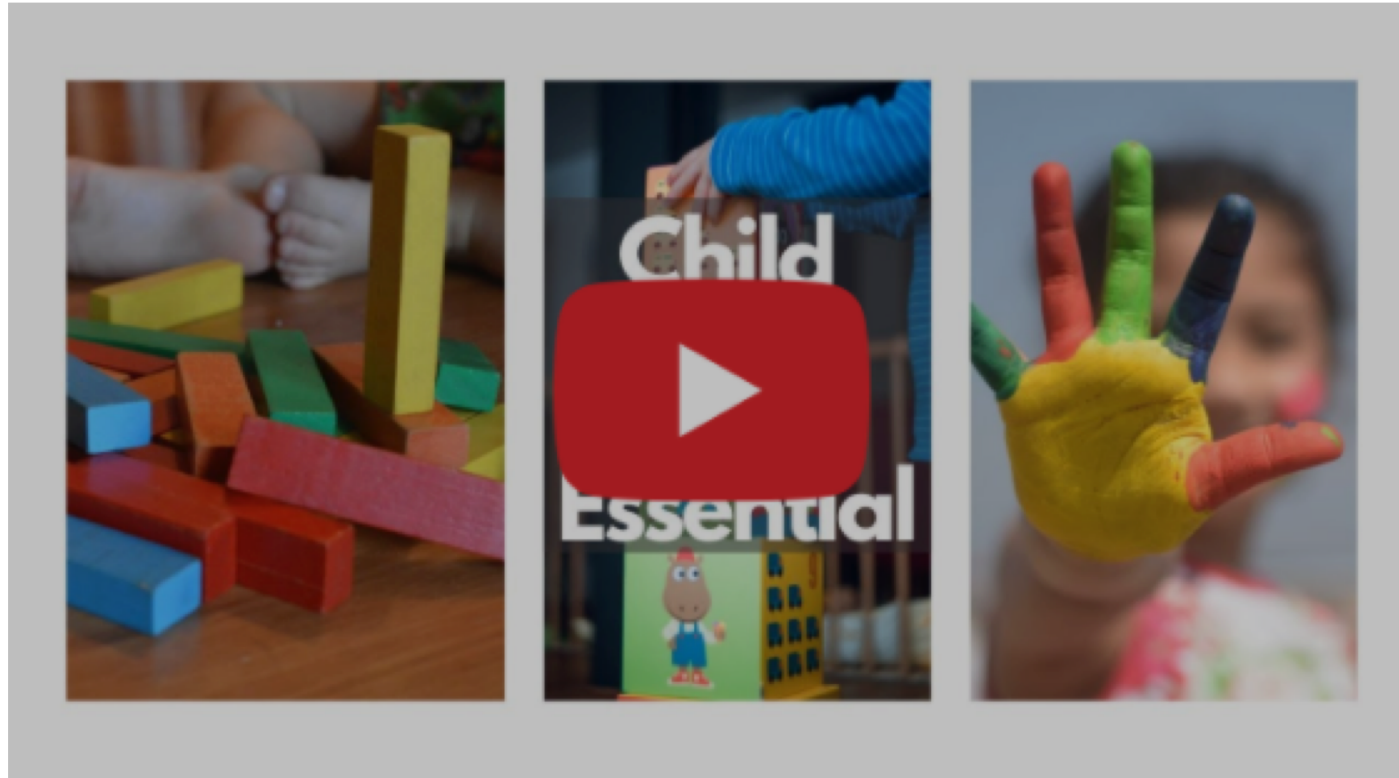
Poll

What action have you taken for early education so far?

Let us know in the poll!



Child Care is Essential



Watch and share: <https://youtu.be/GcdrtI9RSEk>

Let's keep going!

Early Education COVID-19 Advocacy Toolkit

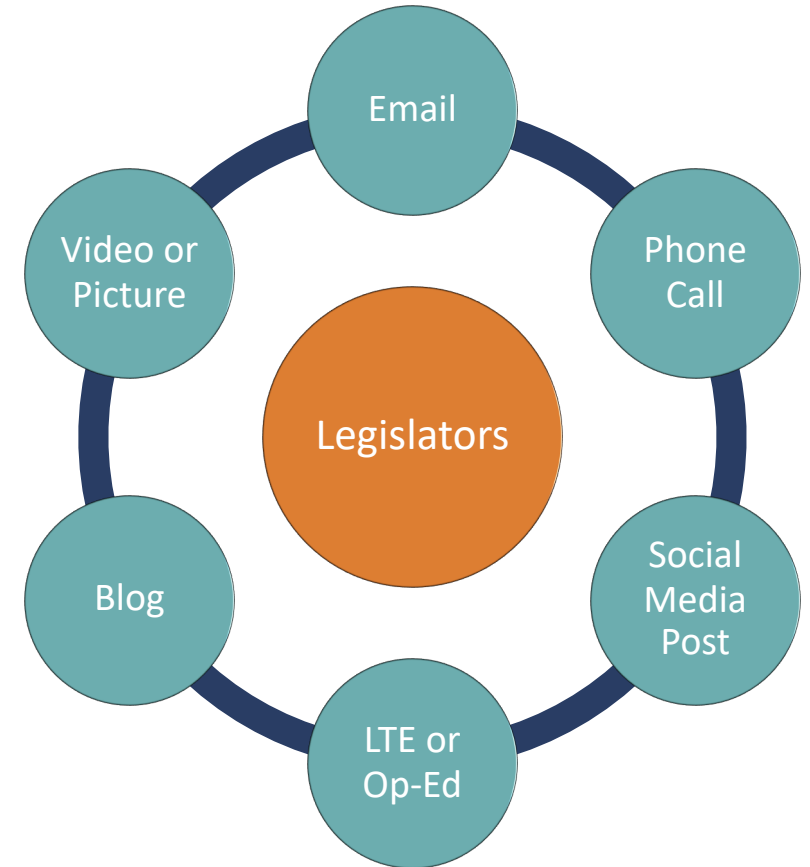
- Tips for sharing your story
- Talking points
- Sample email to policymakers
- Phone script for calling policymakers
- Social media messages and graphics
- Sample Letter to the Editor for providers
- Contact information for key policymakers



Sharing Your Story

A Surround Sound Approach:

- Send an email to your legislators
- Call your legislators
- Post a message on social media – and tag your legislators
- Record a short video or post a picture on social media – and tag your legislators
- Write a blog or newsletter article and share it online and with your network
- Write an LTE or Op-Ed for your local newspaper
- Share a story with us through our [Action Center](#) that we can use in our conversations with policymakers



Questions?



Thank you!

www.NCEarlyEducationCoalition.org

For more information:

Michele Rivest

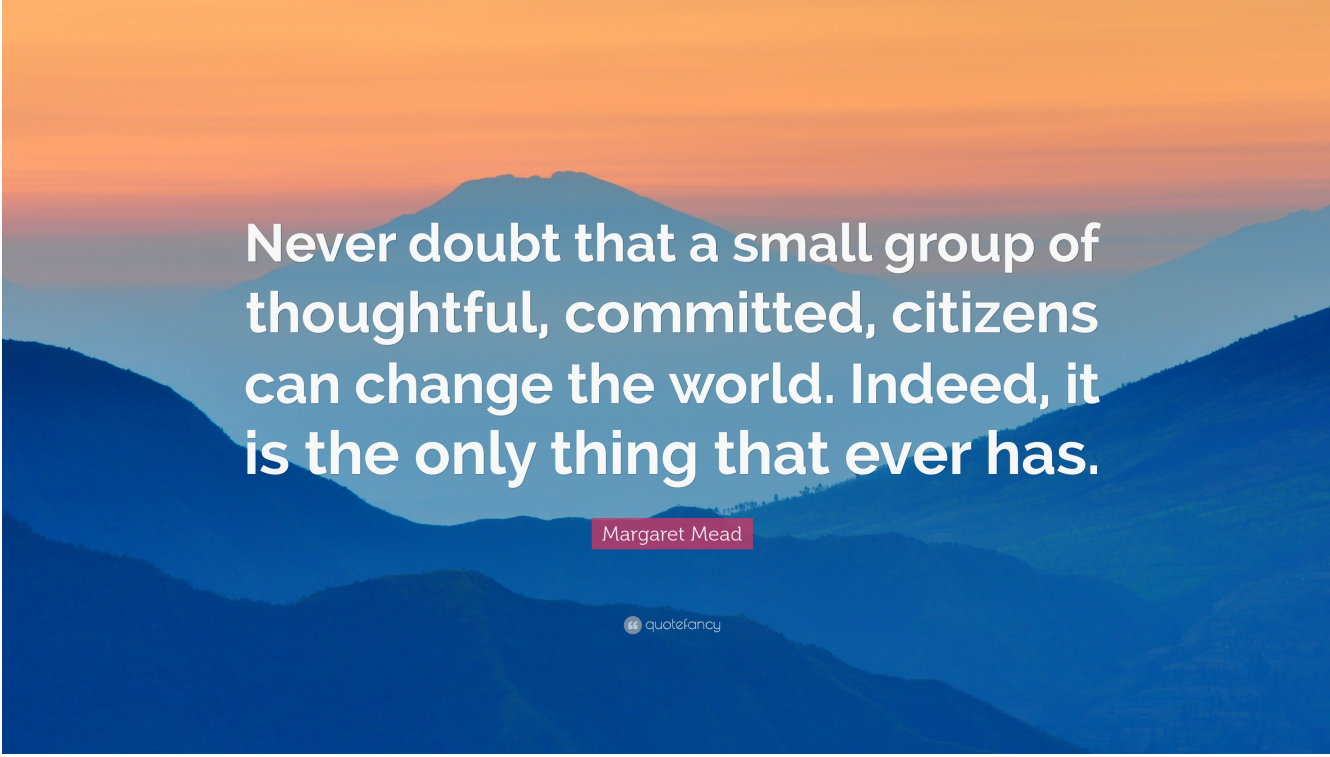
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Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

Margaret Mead

 quote fancy