

Federal Actions on Education and Child Care May Disrupt Critical Services for Children and Families

LOS ANGELES, CA, UNITED STATES, April 29, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Early Edge is asking our partners, supporters, and communities to share their voices about the administration's current actions, which will reverse decades of progress in creating early learning and care spaces that are safe, nurturing, and inclusive for children and their families of all backgrounds. These include:



- Dismantling the Department of Education (ED), which could severely disrupt funding and oversight for early childhood programs and preschool development grants. Without federal coordination, access to quality early learning may become increasingly unequal—especially for underserved and low-income communities. In California, nearly 400,000 children could face major service disruptions and an uncertain future, putting their development, education, and well-being at serious risk.
- Declaring English as the official language of the United States, which poses significant challenges for infants, toddlers, and their caregivers. In California, where 44.1% of residents age 5 and older speak a language other than English at home, many families rely on language support to access early care, healthcare, and other essential services—ultimately impacting the development and well-being of young children, particularly for the 1.5 million Dual Language Learner children in our state.
- Suspending \$65 million in teacher-training grants that promote teacher pipelines in rural and high-need communities: The U.S. Supreme Court allowed the federal administration to suspend grants that supported placing teachers in under-resourced and rural areas and which aimed to build a diverse workforce reflective of the communities served. In California, rural areas are home to nearly half a million K–12 students. Cutting these funds threatens the development of teacher pipelines to rural communities, posing significant challenges for the state's education system—especially for already underserved areas.
- Threatening to extinguish essential early learning and care programs like Head Start: Head Start

California serves over 85,000 children and employs over 23,000 people across the state. 90 percent of families who receive Head Start in the US live below 130 percent of the poverty threshold or qualify for public assistance. Cuts to Head Start have the potential to critically impact thousands of families in California who cannot otherwise afford high-quality, early learning opportunities for their children. Families in rural areas, who utilize nearly 46% of all Head Start slots, as well as those families seeking care for their babies and toddlers, will be especially impacted where other child care options are either unaffordable or unavailable to them.

These federal decisions may pose significant challenges for the stability and equity of early learning systems nationwide. Early Edge remains committed to supporting policies that promote access, inclusion, and developmentally appropriate care for all children.

During this chaotic and uncertain time, we will continue to stand up for our youngest learners who are impacted today, tomorrow, and in the future.

We encourage you to call your Congressional office TODAY to make your concerns known about these actions. Contact the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121, which will connect you to the right Congressional or Senate office based on your location.

<u>Early Edge California</u> is a nonprofit advocacy organization dedicated to improving access to high-quality Early Learning experiences for all California children so they can have a strong foundation for future success.

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