



Children and Families in Early Education Committee - 2024-2025 School Year Recommendations

The Children and Families in Early Education Committee is charged with addressing how we can collectively and effectively serve the needs of our youngest learners in Los Angeles as well as the ways we are providing opportunities for engagement with their parents and families. During the 2024-2025 year, the committee engaged a broad range of stakeholders including families, educators, school leaders, community organizations, advocates, labor partners, and childcare providers to examine key issues in early education. Discussions focused on district and statewide enrollment trends, early literacy and numeracy practices, approaches to measuring program quality, the role of joy and play-based learning, facilities needs, family engagement strategies, and specialized programming across early education centers.

Following discussions in meetings dated 9/24/24, 10/17/24, 1/23/25, 1/18/25, and 5/6/25 the committee recommends pursuing action around the following items:

Expand Trauma-Informed & Whole-Child Approach

- Expand Access to Trauma and Resilience Informed Early Enrichment (TRiEE) Programs. UCLA's evaluation of Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP) data at LAUSD Early Education Centers showed students in TriEE sites had greater gains in social-emotional learning, language development, math, and literacy. We should increase the number of early education centers implementing TriEE, especially in communities impacted by trauma, and ensure its long-term funding.
- Increase Learning Opportunities for All Educators and Parents on Trauma-Informed Care. Integrate trauma-informed training into professional development for all early education professionals (certificated and classified staff) and ensure families of early learners have access to trauma-informed parenting workshops.

Bring More Outdoor Learning Spaces to Early Education Programs

- Expand Nature Explorers and Outdoor Learning Spaces. Transform asphalt-covered schoolyards into dynamic, shaded play and learning areas by prioritizing the installation and maintenance of Outdoor Nature Explorers and SEEDs projects for Early Education

Centers and elementary schools serving preschool students. Outdoor educational spaces increase joy and improve outcomes not just for children but also for educators and families by supporting broad engagement, collaborative play, and wellness.

- Pursue State Funding for Outdoor Early Childhood Education. Recognizing that outdoor time is a programmatic requirement for full-day early education programs, advocate for legislation that increases State funding to build these facilities, potentially exploring state bond measures Propositions 2 and 4 as funding sources.
- Support for sites without nature explorers: Develop tools and provide resources for site leaders with low-cost alternatives to outdoor classrooms, allowing all children to benefit from extended and meaningful shaded outdoor play and learning experiences.

Consider strategic use for previously shuttered Early Education sites

- Review Use of Shuttered Sites: Conduct a review of shuttered school sites, including current use, operational cost estimates, and code compliance needs for reopening as early education spaces and childcare facilities for our adult students and provide recommendations on site use for the Board and Superintendent's consideration.
- Explore Leasing of Unused Sites: Where reopening programs isn't feasible, assess whether shuttered or underutilized sites can be leased to community-based providers aligned with the district's early education goals at a reasonable cost to the providers.

Strengthen Quality and Measurement Across All Early Learning Settings

- Leverage Longitudinal Data to Promote Quality. Utilize existing District data to track child outcomes longitudinally and across different early learning programs to better understand what's working well in all preschool settings and support holistic student success across all LAUSD early learning programs.
- Expand and Deepen Partnerships with Community Providers: Deepen ties with family child care providers to help improve quality and facilitate smooth transitions for students as they enter LAUSD, such as by exploring joint trainings on essential topics like literacy and numeracy, sharing resources, and holding community events that welcome family child care providers.

Set Strong Foundations in Literacy and Numeracy

- Expand Access to Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI) training for Early Education Staff. CGI is an evidence-based approach that builds on children's natural problem solving skills. It encourages math confidence and independence by honoring students' developmental pace and cultural ways of thinking. Open up CGI training to more preschool educators, both certificated and classified, to enhance early numeracy instruction and provide tailored workshops for families tied to CGI.
- Share Literacy Strategies Through Partnerships: Deepen partnerships with public libraries and community organizations to distribute culturally relevant early literacy tools and learning strategies directly to families in their neighborhoods.

- Expand Dual Language Programs and Support Multilingual Learners at All Sites. For multilingual learners (e.g., Spanish, Korean, Chinese, and Russian speaking students), ensure the utilization of best and promising practices identified by the Multilingual Multicultural Education Department such as constructive conversations tools, visuals to reduce language barriers and dedicated professional development for educators. Utilize demographic data and existing dual language feeder patterns in communities of schools to expand the early learning dual language pilot to more EECs, CSPP, and TK programs.

Enhancing Family Engagement and Communication Tools.

- Address Barriers Posed by Program Eligibility Requirements: Continue advocating for more flexible program eligibility documentation policies to alleviate fear among immigrant families and support universal access to early education programs.
- Streamline Communication Through Parent Portal: Allow families to track and RSVP to school-based events through the parent portal to simplify communication and reduce reliance on phone calls or informal outreach.
- Ensure Family Fluency with Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP) and Gather Parent Input: Provide resources for families to understand the DRDP assessment and results, and incorporate parent surveys across programs to better understand classroom dynamics and inform program quality more holistically.