

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TESTIMONY

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA EARLY LEARNING STANDARDS COMMON CORE K-12 ALIGNMENT

JANUARY 23, 2013

GOOD EVENING. I AM FRANCES J. ROLLINS, PRESIDENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION FOR THE EDUCATION OF YOUNG CHILDREN (DCAEYC). DCAEYC IS THE LOCAL AFFILIATE OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF YOUNG CHILDREN (NAEYC). DCAEYC IS COMMITTED TO WORK ON BEHALF OF YOUNG CHILDREN, THE PROFESSIONALS WHO WORK WITH THEM AND THE STAKEHOLDERS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING YOUNG CHILDREN WITH THE FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESS IN SCHOOL AND LIFE. SOME OF THE SERVICES DCAEYC OFFERS TO ITS MEMBERS INCLUDE, BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

- ADVOCACY - TESTIFYING AT GOVERNMENT HEARINGS', PROVIDING LITERATURE ABOUT PENDING LEGISLATION AND ITS IMPACT ON CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND THE PROFESSIONALS WHO WORK WITH THEM, ALONG WITH RECOMMENDATIONS OF ACTION MEMBERS CAN TAKE TO BE SURE OF THE MOST POSITIVE OUTCOME FOR YOUNG CHILDREN AND THOSE WHO CARE FOR THEM.
- PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT - SPONSORING MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS OF INTEREST AND VALUE TO THE MEMBERS.

APPROXIMATELY TWO YEARS AGO, DCAEYC PARTICIPATED IN AN EFFORT AMONG SEVERAL EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONS TO JOIN TOGETHER TO OFFER PROGRAMS AND SERVICES TO THE EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION COMMUNITY IN THE CITY. THE ORGANIZATIONS INCLUDE: THE DC HEAD START ASSOCIATION, THE WASHINGTON

ASSOCIATION OF CHILD CARE CENTERS AND GREAT START DC. THE ORGANIZATIONS WORKED TOGETHER TO HOST A SERIES OF MEETINGS. TOPICS OF IMPORTANCE TO THE EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION COMMUNITY WAS THE FOCUS OF THE MEETINGS. FOR EXAMPLE, THE LAST MEETING FOCUSED ON THE "STATE OF EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION IN THE CITY". BASED ON THE SUCCESS OF THESE MEETINGS, THE ORIGINAL ORGANIZATIONS AND THE RECENT ADDITION OF EMPOWER DC, ARE WORKING TO FORMALIZE THEIR RELATIONSHIP BY TO CREATE AN EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE NETWORK. A GOAL FOR THE NETWORK IS TO BUILD PUBLIC, PROFESSIONAL AND THE POLITICAL WILL TO SUSTAIN A HIGH QUALITY EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION SYSTEM IN THE CITY.

AS I REVIEWED AND REFLECTED ON THE REVISED EARLY LEARNING STANDARDS PRESENTED TO YOU BY THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION LAST WEEK, IT SEEMS THIS DOCUMENT IS THE CONTINUATION OF A PROCESS THAT STARTED A WHILE AGO WITH THE FIRST SET OF EARLY LEARNING STANDARDS APPROVED AND IMPLEMENTED IN PROGRAMS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN, BIRTH TO 8 YEARS OLD. THESE STANDARDS DESCRIBE THE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND DISPOSITION CHILDREN NEED TO SUCCEED IN A GLOBAL SOCIETY. THE REVISED STANDARDS ARE ALIGNED WITH THE COMMON CORE STANDARDS, FOR CHILDREN FROM KINDERGARTEN TO HIGH SCHOOL AND PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A STRONGER SEAMLESS SYSTEM OF EDUCATION. A SYSTEM THAT COULD PROVIDE A SMOOTHER TRANSITION AT CRITICAL POINTS IN A CHILD'S EDUCATIONAL JOURNEY, BEGINNING WITH THE TRANSITION FROM PROGRAMS SERVING CHILDREN, BIRTH TO 5 YEARS OLD, TO KINDERGARTEN. IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THIS INCLUDES COMMUNITY BASED

PROGRAMS, DCPS AND CHARTER SCHOOLS AND THOSE RECEIVING FEDERAL FUNDS TO OPERATE A HEAD START PROGRAM.

THE POTENTIAL, POSITIVE IMPACT OF THE REVISED EARLY LEARNING STANDARDS LIES IN THE BREADTH AND DEPTH OF A COMPREHENSIVE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM FOR THE TEACHERS, ADMINISTRATORS, FAMILY MEMBERS, THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND OFFICIALS, LIKE MEMBERS OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION. THIS MEANS CREATING A PLAN WHERE EVERYONE HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN THESE STANDARDS, ENGAGE IN MEANINGFUL DISCUSSIONS ABOUT WHAT THEY MEAN AND ACTIVITIES AND EXPERIENCES THAT NEED TO BE OFFERED TO YOUNG CHILDREN TO ENSURE THEY SUCCESSFULLY MEET THESE STANDARDS, THEREBY HAVING THE FOUNDATION TO SUCCEED IN SCHOOL IN LIFE. MEANINGFUL ACTIVITIES, CREATED WITH FAMILY MEMBERS TO SUPPORT CHILDREN TO ACQUIRE THE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND DISPOSITIONS NECESSARY TO MEET THE STANDARDS AND A FORUM FOR ALL STAKEHOLDERS TO DISCUSS THE SUCCESS AND CHALLENGES WITH THIS WORK. ULTIMATELY, THE SUCCESS OF OUR EFFORTS TO MAKE SURE THE CHILDREN ARE ABLE TO REACH THE STANDARDS.

I HAVE THREE STRATEGIES FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS YOU COULD MAKE TO OSSE, WHEN YOU APPROVE THESE REVISED EARLY LEARNING STANDARDS:

1. CREATE A TASK FORCE THAT INCLUDES ALL STAKEHOLDERS WITH PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO CARE FOR AND EDUCATE YOUNG CHILDREN. THE TASK FORCE SHOULD ALSO INCLUDE FAMILY MEMBERS. THE TASK FORCE WOULD BE CHARGED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY TO CREATE AND IMPLEMENT A COMPREHENSIVE PROFESSIONAL

DEVELOPMENT PLAN. I AM CONFIDENT THE EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE NETWORK WOULD WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH OSSE AS THEY IMPLEMENT THIS STRATEGY.

2. RECOMMEND OSSE SUBMIT TO YOU, THE ACTUAL COST FOR THIS WORK WITH IDEAS OF HOW TO OBTAIN THE FUNDS.
3. DEVELOP A PROCEDURE TO HOLD THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN ACCOUNTABLE FOR FULFILLING THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES.

THE REVISED EARLY LEARNING STANDARDS PROVIDE YOUNG CHILDREN WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO OBTAIN THE FOUNDATION TO SUCCEED IN A GLOBAL SOCIETY.

I WOULD BE GLAD TO RESPOND TO ANY QUESTIONS YOU HAVE, AT THIS TIME.

THANK YOU.