

**TESTIMONY OF FRANCES J. ROLLINS  
PRESIDENT OF THE DC ASSOCIATION FOR THE EDUCATION  
OF YOUNG CHILDREN  
AND TODAY'S SPOKESPERSON FOR THE  
DC EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE NETWORK  
ON THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA EARLY LEARNING STANDARDS  
COMMON CORE K-12 ALIGNMENT  
BEFORE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2013  
5:30 PM  
441 4<sup>TH</sup> STREET, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20002**

- Mr. Chairman and members of the State Board of Education, my name is Frances J. Rollins. I am founder of the Sunshine Learning Center, the Southeast Children's Fund and President of the DC Association for the Education of Young Children. I am pleased to speak today on behalf of the newly formed Early Childhood Education Collaborative Network. I have two purposes here today.
- First is to introduce you to the Early Childhood Education Collaborative Network and the second is to inform you of our support for the recommendations contained in the OSSE report.
- You need to know the ECE Collaborative Network is an outgrowth of two years of collaboration among four of five founding early care and education advocacy organizations: DC Association for the Education of Young Children (DCAEYC), led by yours truly, the DC Head Start Association (DCHSA, led by Almeta Keys, the Washington Association of Child Care Centers (WACC), led by Bernita Lewis, Great Start DC, led by Carrie Thornhill and Empower DC, led by Parisa Norouzi.
- The purpose of the DC ECE Network is to establish a city-wide advocacy organization of individuals and organizations who have joined together to serve as a coherent and consistent voice for young children, in the District of Columbia. The Network promotes and supports public policy

and public investments that ensure that children enter school ready to succeed at the point of entry and throughout the primary grades.

- Four of our priorities are: (1) the promotion of training for ECE educators on the common core K-12 Alignment; (2) the promotion of the adoption and implementation by the city of the compensation recommendations from the Commission on Teacher Compensation; **(3)** developing of a model of a Ward based network working to promote high standards and accreditation and compliance with the emerging enhanced QRIS/State Quality Insurance Monitoring System; and (4) conducting an assessment of the impact of the Pre-K Expansion and Enhancement Act of 2008 and making recommendations for changes to update the landmark legislation.
- With regard to the Early Learning Standards Common Core K-12 Alignment, we congratulate the Board of Education, OSSE and Superintendent Hosanna Mahaley, the Early Childhood Leadership Institute and all who contributed to the work on the revised standards.
- We want you to know that many educators affiliated with our organizations and the Collaborative Network were directly involved in the shaping of the early versions of the approved Learning Standards from their inception to approval by the Board of Education and subsequently the State Board of Education, we have been intimately involved in using, training and application of the approved standards and be assured that we will be enthusiastically and intimately involved in learning and applying the new Common Core k-12 alignment standards.
- Also please know we fully support the purposes, uses and importance of the standards as articulated in the report but we want to emphasize the importance of a systemic approach to the professional development and training of all our educators across public schools, public charter schools, and community based centers and homes. As we move forward to implement the first Kindergarten Entrance Assessment this year, our ECE educators want to be able to achieve the maximum results and

positive outcomes from the use and application of these standards for the benefit of all our children, parents, families and city.

- Thank you for this opportunity to speak on behalf of the ECE Collaborative Network. I will be happy to answer any questions you might have.