



**NORTH CAROLINA  
EARLY EDUCATION COALITION**

## Tuesdays for Tots

# NCGA Legislative Session Summary Leandro Updates

June 30, 2020



**NORTH CAROLINA  
EARLY EDUCATION COALITION**

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.

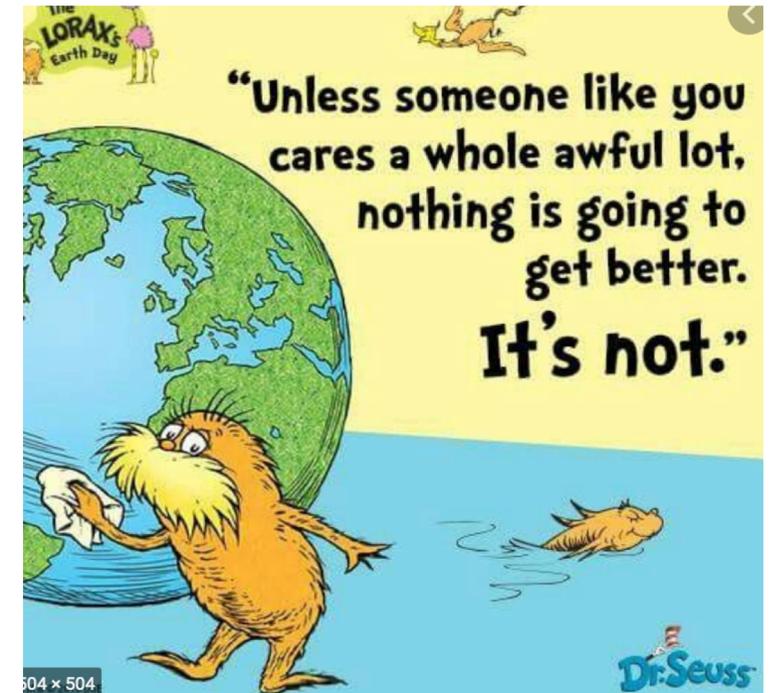
# Message of Hope from Elliott



“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?**



**NORTH CAROLINA  
EARLY EDUCATION COALITION**

# Leandro Update

**Henrietta Zalkind**

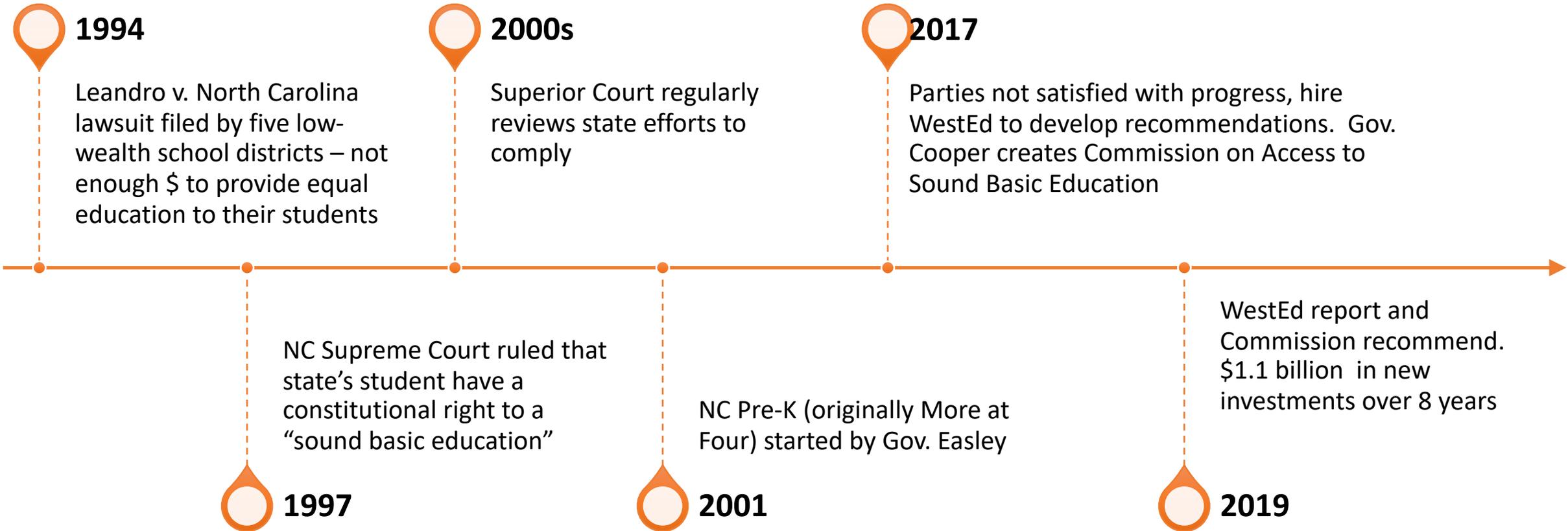
Director, Down East Partnership for Children  
Chair, Early Childhood Workgroup, Commission for Sound Basic Education



**NORTH CAROLINA  
EARLY EDUCATION COALITION**

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.

# 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  
\$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

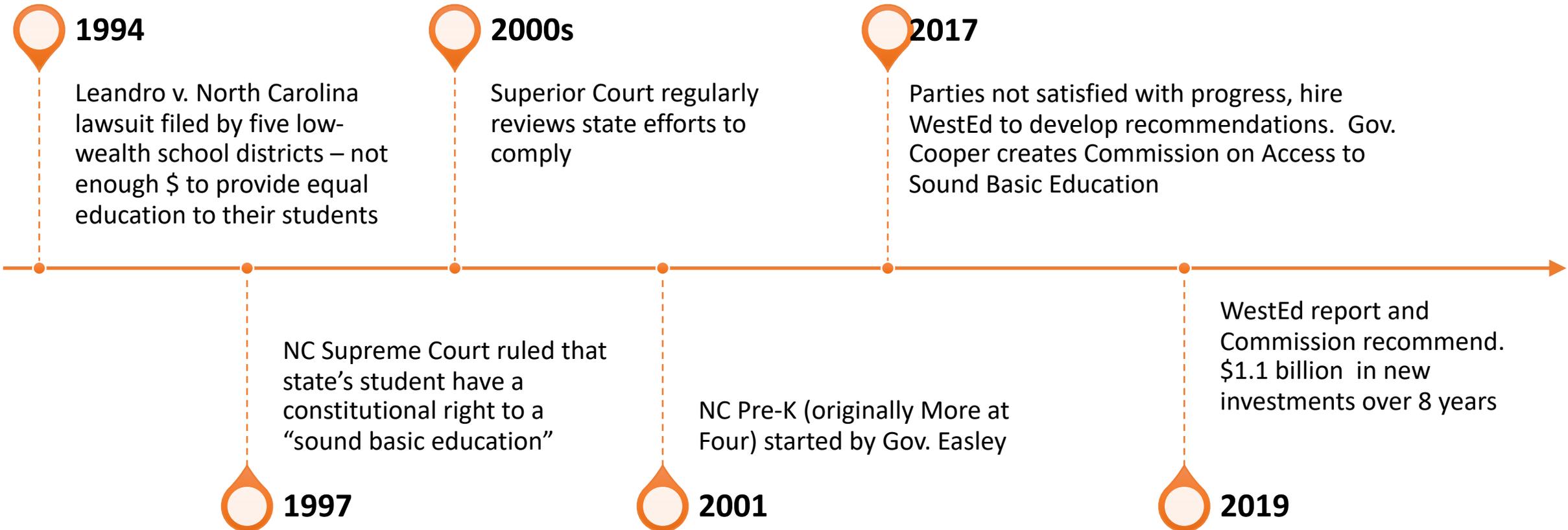
# Communities for the Education of Every Child NC



**Website [www.everychildnc.org](http://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?



**NORTH CAROLINA  
EARLY EDUCATION COALITION**

# 2020 Short Session Summary



**NORTH CAROLINA  
EARLY EDUCATION COALITION**

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.

# 2020 Short Session Overview

- Started April 29<sup>th</sup> – 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

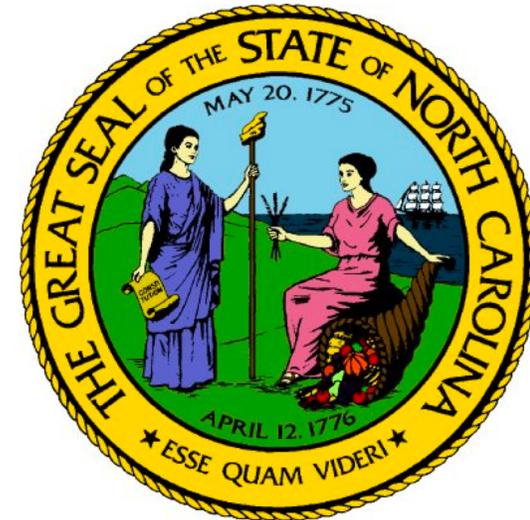
- **Focus on educating policymakers** about the child care crisis and what is needed to stabilize and rebuild the system
- **Focus on the Why Child Care is Essential –**
  - ✓ **For children’s healthy development and early learning**
  - ✓ **For families to be able to work and return to work**
  - ✓ **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 2<sup>nd</sup>
- 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?





**NORTH CAROLINA  
EARLY EDUCATION COALITION**

# Advocacy Tips and Strategies



**NORTH CAROLINA  
EARLY EDUCATION COALITION**

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.

# Poll

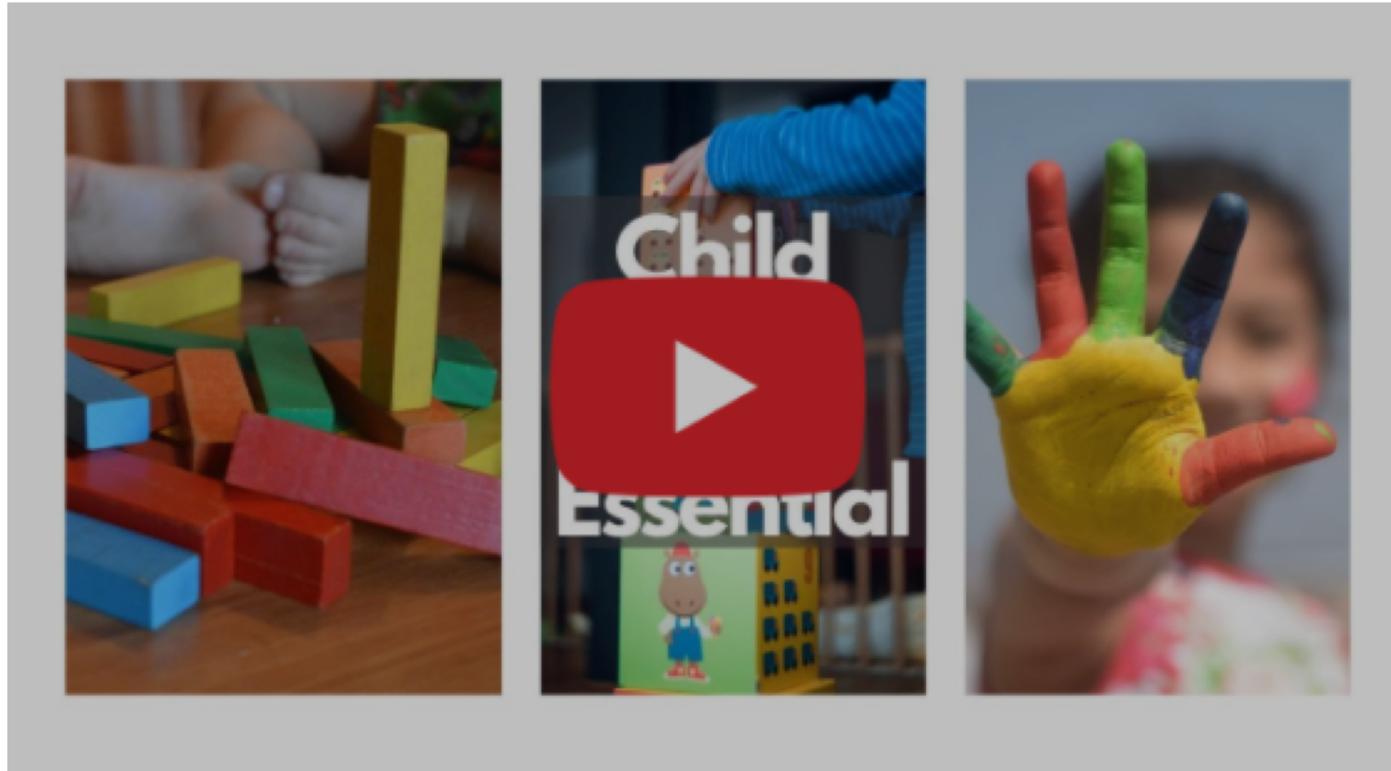
What action have you taken for early education so far?

Let us know in the poll!

**No more  
baby talk.  
It's time  
for action.**



# 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

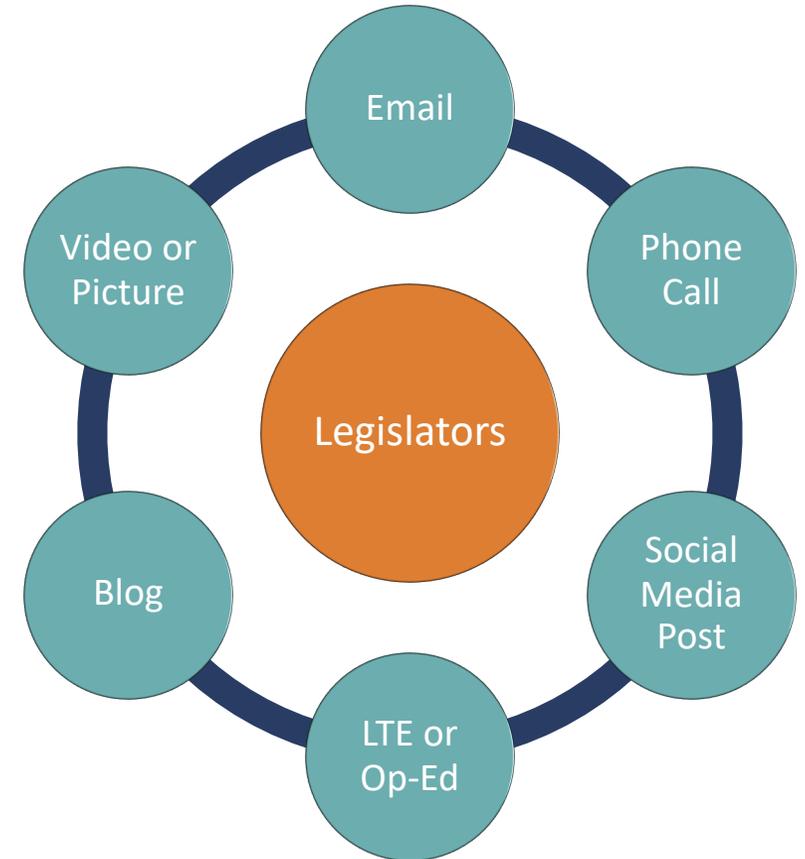
**No more  
baby talk.  
It's time  
for action.**



# 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](http://www.NCEarlyEducationCoalition.org)

**For more information:**

**Michele Rivest**

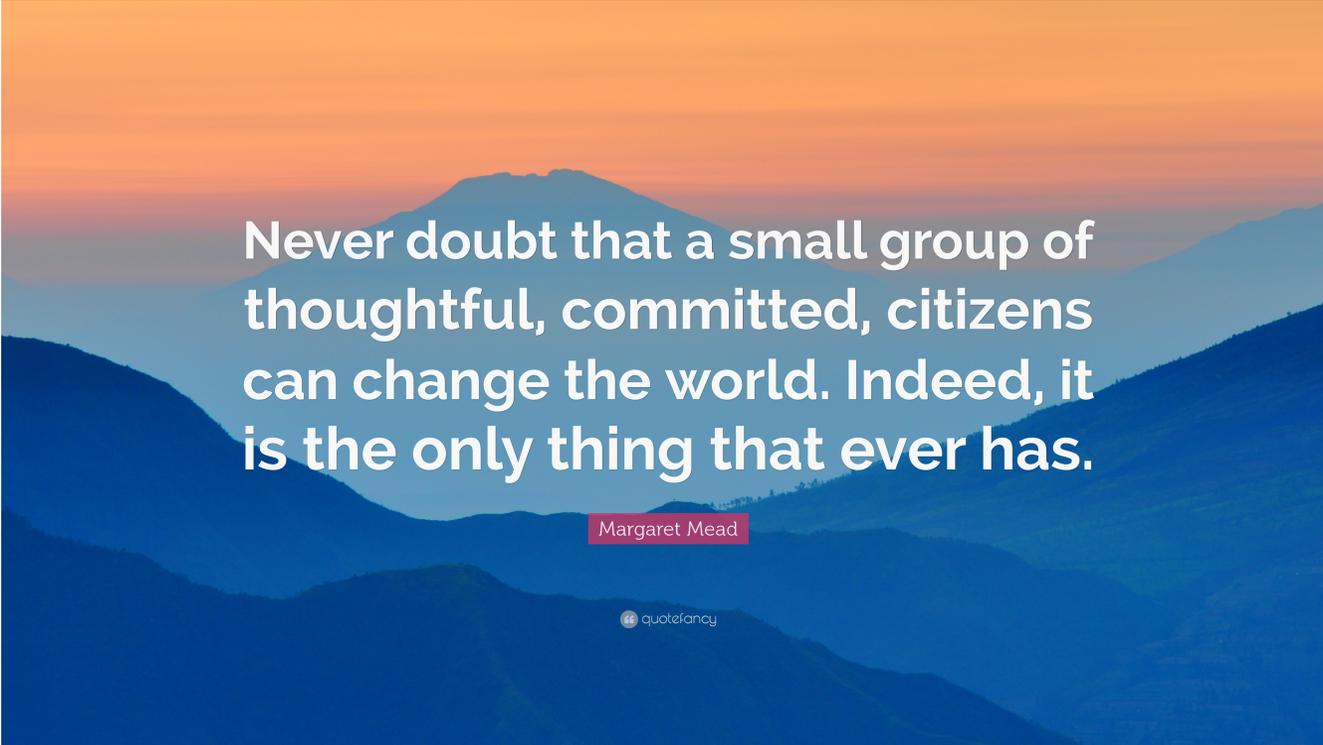
[michele.rivest@NCEarlyEducationCoalition.org](mailto:michele.rivest@NCEarlyEducationCoalition.org)

**Elaine Zukerman**

[elainez@NCEarlyEducationCoalition.org](mailto:elainez@NCEarlyEducationCoalition.org)

**Angela Burch**

[angelab@NCEarlyEducationCoalition.org](mailto:angelab@NCEarlyEducationCoalition.org)



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