



Transforming America's Primary Education System

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Listening and Learning Event
Understanding PreK-3rd Structures
U.S. Department of Education
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
Washington, DC
April 23, 2010

FOUNDATIONFORCHILDDEVELOPMENT

PREK-3RD: A NEW BEGINNING FOR AMERICAN EDUCATION

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What is PreK - 3rd?

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PreKindergarten - 3rd Grade A New Beginning for American Education



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A NATION IN PERIL

- **The recent National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) Report found that:**
 - **Over 80 percent of African American, Hispanic/Latino, and American Indian low-income children are not reading at grade level when tested at the beginning of fourth grade.**
 - **Only one-third of all American children are reading at grade level or above when tested at the beginning of fourth grade.**
- **What happens before the Fourth Grade – in families, in PreK, in Kindergarten, and in Grades One to Three – matters.**



PREK-3RD APPROACHES ARE CRITICAL

- **Compelling evidence that many children come to Kindergarten way behind.**
- **Evaluations that raise questions about sustaining gains from high-quality PreK programs or short-term interventions.**
- **Growing recognition, based on research and evaluation, that high-quality PreK must be sustained by high-quality K-12 education. Every year of quality education and teachers counts.**
- **Increasing awareness of Third Grade as the first crucial turning point in children's educational trajectories.**



PREK-3RD IS

- **Public responsibility for full-school-day education at age three**
 - **Voluntary, Full-Day PreK for three-year-olds**
 - **Voluntary, Full-Day PreK for four-year-olds**
 - **Required, Full-School-Day Kindergarten**

- **Aligned educational strategies and resources within and across grades**
 - **Aligned standards, sequenced curriculum, instruction, assessments**
 - **Well-rounded and coherent curriculum, including arts, physical education, social and emotional learning, science, history**
 - **Joint planning and professional development among all PreK, Kindergarten, and Grades 1-3 teachers and staff**



PREK-3RD IS

- **Principal leadership to support joint professional development around curriculum and instruction**
- **Family engagement focused on supporting learning and instruction**
- **PreK-3rd teachers have the same qualifications and compensation as all teachers**
 - **Lead teachers qualified to teach any grade from PreK through Third Grade**
 - **Teaching assistants with A.A. Degrees**

PREK-3RD: WHERE IS IT HAPPENING?

PreK-3rd State and District Efforts



State Initiatives ■	School District ●	School District ●	Potential States ▲
Colorado (State)	Arlington, VA	Miami-Dade, FL (WKKF)	Georgia
Florida (WKKF)	Atlanta, GA (A.E. Casey)	Montgomery County, MD	Maryland
Hawaii (WKKF)	Boston, MA (3 to 3 rd)	Palm Beach, FL	New Mexico
Illinois (McCormick)	Bremerton, WA (Gates)	Red Bank, NJ	Oklahoma
Louisiana (State)	Carrboro, NC (FirstSchool)	San Francisco, CA	Oregon
Minnesota (McKnight)	Chicago, IL (McCormick)	Santa Clara, CA	Texas
New Jersey (FCD and Local Funders)	District of Columbia (FCD)	Seattle, WA	
Pennsylvania (State)	Long Beach, CA	Tulsa, OK	
Washington (State)	Los Angeles, CA	Washington State (Gates Districts)	



CHALLENGES: NO MORE SILVER BULLETS

- **Increasing funding for PreK-3rd approaches in ESEA, IDEA, Head Start**
- **Moving from “transition” to a fully integrated learning continuum from PreK through Third Grade**
- **PreK-3rd standards**
 - **Inclusion and alignment with Common Core K-12 standards**
- **PreK-3rd assessments**
 - **Assessments from PreK through Third Grade aligned with Common Core standards**



CHALLENGES: NO MORE SILVER BULLETS

- **Investing in the PreK-3rd education workforce**
 - **Existing workforce**
 - **Joint professional development for all PreK-3rd teachers**
 - **Professional development for principals/administrators**
 - **Future workforce**
 - **PreK-3rd teacher preparation programs**
 - **Articulated and differentiated staffing**
 - **Clear paths for professional mobility**
- **Rethinking family engagement in PreK-3rd learning**
 - **Laser focus on PreK-3rd learning and instruction**
- **Shared accountability for children's learning by Third Grade: PreK programs, K-3, and families**



PREK-3RD RESOURCES

Key PreK-3rd resources are listed on the handout.

To view these resources and for more information:

WWW.FCD-US.ORG