



Talking Points in Support of Louisiana's Early Learning and Development Standards Advocates and Business Leaders

Support of ELDS during the June 13th BESE Meeting:

Please make sure to say this in your public comment. In addition, choose 1-2 bullet points from sections below:

I am proud to support the proposed revised Early Learning and Development Standards developed through the review committee process.

Talking Points

Please choose 1-2 bullets; public comment is limited to ~2 minutes

Summary Talking Points

- The revised standards help early childhood educators reinforce the development of good life skills and prepare children to be kindergarten ready.
- Business executives across the country, including me, have noted that too many employees and job applicants lack the life skills necessary to be successful. These skills include good communication, the ability to cooperate, and the ability to overcome challenges. The foundation of an adult's ability to perform these skills are built in early childhood, and business leaders recognize the vital role of early childhood programs in supporting these skills.
- The U.S. Chamber of Commerce recognizes the importance of developing these skills in the earliest years to ensure children grow into successful adults.
- Business leaders expect adults to have these skills by the time they enter the workforce, and they expect that early childhood education programs will support the development of these skills. Most states have similar standards in their educational programs. Louisiana must maintain our long-existing standards to remain competitive.
- **A large, rigorous body of research** demonstrates how social-emotional development improves academic performance, relationships, and behavior. The revised standards are in-line with existing standards and reflect the best practices from a long-established scientific field.
- **The revised standards are the result of an extended review process that was transparent, open to the public, and included multiple opportunities for public review and feedback.**

- **Louisiana was one of the first states in the country to put early childhood education standards in place** to give our children the life skills they need to be more responsible and successful as they grow up. For well over 10 years, Louisiana has used these standards to give our children a better start in life.
- **These research-based standards help early care and education professionals support young children in their development of valuable life skills**, like paying attention in class, being a good student, making friends, and interacting and communicating with people. These kinds of skills help children be more responsible and successful as they grow. The standards give child care providers a guiding framework so that they can cultivate skills and environments that advance students' learning and development to prepare our youngest learners for success in school and life.
- **Our children have one chance at childhood.** We want our children to be responsible, make good decisions, and take responsibility for their actions. Children must be taught these skills, and they must be reinforced both at home and in school. These standards will help educators provide high-quality instruction to children in Louisiana which some studies show can reduce a child's likelihood of future involvement in the criminal justice system.

How were the standards initially developed?

- Louisiana's Early Learning Development Standards are almost 10 years old and have helped our early care and education system thrive. We've been a national leader in early learning because we know it can help our children do better in school, and ultimately be more successful in life.
 - The standards are important because they provide age-appropriate goals for children's learning and development that can guide teachers, parents and caregivers, and other early childhood professionals on what types of experiences and activities children should have during their earliest years.
 - The standards are guideposts to support a developmentally appropriate curriculum and a progression of development and learning that supports success in school and in life.