

The Strong Start for Children – Building America's Future coalition of organizations supports the following:

Overarching principles

- Every age from birth through kindergarten is important and every component of the initiative listed below is critical to children's success in school and in life
- Families are important and require support and engagement in each component
- Each component of this initiative deserves increased financial resources for greater access and quality
- Focus resources on children in low-income families and children with special needs (disabilities, homeless, dual language learners)

Home Visiting

• Expand evidence-based home visiting programs.

EHS/Child Care Partnership

- EHS standards (includes comprehensive services)
- Support for more child care providers to meet the standards (family child care, center child care)
- Local partnerships that expand and enhance access to and the quality of Early Head Start services
- No fewer children than currently served by EHS and child care subsidy
- Coordination with the child care subsidy system to ensure the needs of working families are met

PreK Initiative

- No fewer children receiving services
- No lowering of quality of services for children currently being served
- All settings and sectors (community-based child care and Head Start as well as schools) that can meet the PreK standards are eligible for these funds
- Comprehensive services (including families) for low income, disadvantaged children Funding for program staff to meet and sustain higher standards over a certain number of years(aka Abbott model) as well as compensation parity with public schools
- No less than full school day, school year prekindergarten services
- Among children in families earning under 200% of poverty, prioritize the most disadvantaged/low-income children
- Child assessment used in conformity with NAS recommendations

Full Day Kindergarten

- State must have appropriate standards in all domains
- Developmentally appropriate curricula and child assessment used in conformity with NAS recommendations

Please email <u>info@nwlc.org</u> if your organization is interested in becoming part of the campaign.