

# Development of a Washington State PreK-3<sup>rd</sup> Ready Schools Action Plan

## Draft Discussion Paper – Updated: December 6, 2011

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This discussion paper outlines the preliminary goals, work plan, and deliverables for developing a three year, *PreK-3<sup>rd</sup> Ready Schools Action Plan*. The goal is to finalize this work plan by mid-December 2011.

**Project Goal:** Reduce the academic achievement gap and create substantial gains in the number of students meeting standards by the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade with a focus on the whole child, including social emotional development, health, family engagement, and transitions. Strategies to improve the **transition** from Pre-K to Kindergarten and to **sustain** early learning and preschool gains (reduce fade-out effect) will be key areas of focus.

### **Purposes:**

1. Create a three-year “*Ready Schools: PreK-3<sup>rd</sup> Action Plan*” that can guide state, regional, district and school (building level) actions to create an effective and aligned continuum of PreK-3<sup>rd</sup> education. For purposes of this action plan, “PreK” will be defined as the early learning settings that typically provide services to three and four-year olds.
2. Identify policy barriers and recommend policies that promote PreK-3<sup>rd</sup> alignment.
3. Build momentum and increase the rate of adoption of PreK-3<sup>rd</sup> strategies.

**Ultimate Approval Authority:** Recommendations will be submitted to the Joint Early Learning Partnership (Superintendent Randy Dorn, Director Bette Hyde, Nina Auerbach) for their consideration and approval. The draft proposal and draft findings and recommendations shall be shared with the Early Learning Advisory Committee for their review and recommendations.

**PreK-3<sup>rd</sup> Action Plan Workgroup:** A 20 to 25 member workgroup will guide development of the Action Plan. Membership will include representatives of: Elementary school principals and teachers, Educational Service Districts (Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Early Learning Director), School District Superintendents, School Board members, School district Special Education/Early Learning/Title I administrator(s), Early Learning providers, Washington State Parent Teacher Association, the League of Education Voters, Tribes, school nurses, family and community engagement coordinators, OSPI, Department of Early learning, and Thrive by Five Washington). Membership will include representatives from large and small school districts, Eastern and Western Washington, communities of color, and urban, suburban and rural communities. The group shall be co-chaired by an OSPI representative and a representative of Early Learning (e.g., DEL) or a school district early learning practitioner. An individual will be hired on contract to provide facilitation, prepare materials for meetings, and to prepare documents and the reports. A small workgroup (4-5 members) will be formed to work with the co-chairs and the facilitator to plan meetings, review and edit documents, and provide strategic direction.

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### **Preliminary Meeting Objectives:**

#### Meeting 1

- Introduce and confirm Workgroup charge and workplan
- Foster relationships among members
- Introduce and discuss PreK-3<sup>rd</sup> framework and state, district and building PreK-3<sup>rd</sup> implementation framework/roles
- Learn about/discuss successful state models
- Refine survey questions

#### Meeting 2

- Create a common understanding of the status of PreK-3<sup>rd</sup> activities in WA. (Presentation and discussion of survey findings/implications and current successful models.)
- Identify/prioritize state level strategies and policy issues
- Presentation/discussion of successful district level strategies

#### Meeting 3

- Learn about and discuss effective building-level PreK-3<sup>rd</sup> strategies
- Identify high value district level strategies
- Identify high value building level strategies

#### Meeting 4

- Decide on the universe of high value state strategies and policy issues, district and building strategies and outstanding issues for further discussion and research
- Identify early actions

#### Meetings 5 and 6

- Finalize recommendations

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#	Task	Deliverables	Completed by
1	<b>Draft project organizing documents:</b> (1) project goals, detailed purposes and work plan with timeline; (2) Workgroup Charge, member job description; and draft letter of invitation to Workgroup members; (3) sequential meeting plan (meeting objectives and topics for 5-6 meetings) and (4) research and identify background materials for member notebooks.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Project description, work plan and timeline.</li> <li>2. Workgroup charge and member job description</li> <li>3. Sequential meeting plan</li> </ol>	December 21, 2011
2	<b>Identify/Invite Workgroup members:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A list of invitees, who will be contacted to determine interest</li> <li>2. A final list of members</li> </ol>	December 21, 2011
3	<b>Survey Instruments:</b> Create two survey instruments for online surveys of superintendents and principals* (District/ESD Superintendents, Principals and possibly preschool/child care providers.) Surveys will provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An environmental scan of current PreK-3<sup>rd</sup> actions in WA</li> <li>• Respondent perspectives on desired/effective next steps in PreK-3<sup>rd</sup> alignment and on policy barriers</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Two survey instruments: one for superintendents and one for principals</li> </ol>	January 15, 2012
4	<b>Winter/Spring Workgroup Meetings:</b> Plan, prepare materials for and facilitate four Spring Workgroup meetings.	Meeting plans, materials, facilitation and meeting summaries for four meetings	February –May 2012
5	<b>Draft Report:</b> Draft Report of PreK-3 <sup>rd</sup> Actions and resources, issues for further research and development, and proposed early actions	Draft Report	June 30, 2012
6	<b>Fall Workgroup Meetings:</b> Plan, prepare materials for and facilitate two Fall Workgroup meetings to finalize the Action Plan	Meeting plans, materials, facilitation and meeting summaries for two meetings	October – November 2012
7	<b>Final Recommended Action Plan:</b> Plan submitted to the Early Learning Partnership for its consideration and approval.	Draft, solicit and incorporate comments and produce final report and Power Point presentation	December 15, 2012