



Policy & Advocacy Agenda 2025

VISION

We envision an early childhood ecosystem in which all children, families, and early educators flourish within Oakland.

We collaborate with community groups, early childhood educators, parent/family advocates, and school district, city and county leaders to achieve this vision.

IMPACT

- Established the provider-led Oakland Family Child Care Policy Program and supported their asks for economic support across multiple levels of government
- Meet with Oakland City Councilmembers and OUSD School Board Directors to educate them on Oakland's Early Childhood Ecosystem
- Analyze Oakland City Budget process and provide recommendations on how the City can better support the Oakland Early Childhood Ecosystem
- Developed Oakland ECEcosystem City District Data Profiles as a resource for policymakers and advocates
- Provide stakeholders and partners with tools, such as a web page with detailed information on public meetings, that make participation in local politics more transparent and accessible

2025 POLICY PRIORITIES

- Equitable implementation of the Oakland Children's Initiative, Measure C, and Universal PreK/TK in Oakland
- Uplifting early childhood as a priority in Oakland city government and school district, with a focus on preserving and expanding programs and resources that meet the needs of families with young children
- Supporting Oakland early childhood educator and provider advocacy goals

POLICY EQUITY GOALS

Systems Change for Oakland's Youngest Learners:

- Advocate for the early childhood system to be funded as a public good
- Elevate early childhood as a priority in City government and Oakland Unified School District

Parent and Family Leadership in Community Investment:

- Incorporate parent, family, and community leadership in equitable implementation of publicly funded early childhood education
- Leverage data and determine gaps in data to support identifying community priorities

Equity for Early Childhood Professionals and Family, Friend, and Neighbor Caregivers:

- Amplify early educator/provider leadership in local advocacy
- Understand promising practices, challenges and opportunities that can improve educator/provider pay and working conditions

Contact Oakland Starting Smart and Strong

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