



Oakland Starting
Smart & Strong

Policy & Advocacy Agenda 2020-21

Our Vision

All Oakland children and families have access to opportunities to realize their full potential.

Our Collaboration

Community groups, early childhood educators, parent/family advocates, school district, city and county leaders.

Our Successes

Oakland Starting Smart and Strong works across sectors to create universal access to high-quality early learning experiences that promote healthy development. Our work is built on 4 pillars.

- Professional development and training in best practices for formal educators and caregivers
- Resources and support for parents, family, friends, neighbors, and other informal caregivers
- Access to quality health care and developmental screenings
- Data, research and innovation to scale what works

Over our five years as a collaborative, we've had successes in each of these areas — now, we've developed the Oakland Starting Smart and Strong policy agenda: our way of leveraging the power of our collaborative's stakeholders to advocate for **equitable systems change, resource allocation, and support for early childhood providers.**

Policy agenda equity areas:

Resources and systems-building efforts should be focused towards children and families most impacted by racial and economic inequities.

SYSTEMS CHANGE for Oakland's youngest learners

- Advocate for long-term public investment in early childhood systems
- Build and expand trauma-informed systems

PARENT & FAMILY LEADERSHIP in community investment

- Listen to parent, family, & community leadership
- Leverage data in support of community priorities

EQUITY FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD professionals & family, friend, & neighbor caregivers

- Increase access to high-quality training, improved pay & working conditions, supplies, and resources
- Advocate for workplace safety especially in context of COVID-19

Our public budgets must reflect our values, with a reinvestment in community services and education. The Oakland Starting Smart and Strong policy agenda is our contribution to getting there.

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To learn more and get involved, go to oaklandsmartandstrong.org