



Oakland Starting
Smart & Strong

Policy & Advocacy Agenda 2021-22

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. These are our Policy and Advocacy successes:

- Organized a Town Hall with local elected officials & early childhood partners in response to COVID19
- Initiated the provider-led Oakland/Alameda County Family Child Care Policy Program
- Engaged state legislators to advocate for public investment across the mixed delivery system
- Centered educator and parent priorities in advocacy efforts

Building on these successes and our seven years of collaborative work, 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, families, educators across the mixed delivery system most impacted by racial and economic inequities.

SYSTEMS CHANGE for Oakland's youngest learners

- Advocate for long-term public investment in early childhood systems
- Elevate early childhood as a priority in City government & Oakland Unified School District

PARENT & FAMILY LEADERSHIP in community investment

- Listen to parent, family, & community leadership in equitable implementation of publicly-funded early childhood education
- 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
- Amplifying Family Child Care (FCC) provider leadership in local advocacy

In 21-22, OSSS's policy priorities are equitable Universal Transitional Kindergarten implementation, uplifting early childhood in City government, and elevating FCC provider advocacy efforts.

Contact: Trisha Barua, OSSS Policy Analyst
trisha@oaklandsmartandstrong.org

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