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## **Leading Early Childhood Alliance Announces New Name, Expanded Focus and New Policy Framework**

***—Organization Sees Need to Focus on Key Policy Areas for Improved Outcomes—***

**Leawood, KS, April 12, 2013** – Reflecting the need for better state policies and practices to improve outcomes for vulnerable young children, the **Birth to Five Policy Alliance** announced today that it is changing its name to the **Alliance for Early Success** (the Alliance) and extending its focus on children birth through age eight.

“Our new name and expanded reach take into account the research that shows the best way to get and keep children on a path to success is to begin at birth and continue through age eight,” said Dr. Lisa Klein, executive director of the Alliance for Early Success. Visit the new website at [earlysuccess.org](http://earlysuccess.org) (<http://earlysuccess.org>).

In addition, today is the release of a new state policy framework with input from more than 150 experts, including early childhood educators, K-12 educators and administrators, advocates, researchers, policymakers, and foundation officers. “The Idea is to provide a tool that can be used as a road map for anyone influencing or making policy to improve outcomes for young children,” said Klein.

“There is great momentum right now and states are eager to adopt smart policies and good programs. We believe this framework will be an important guide to the critical policies that are needed, and the foundations that support those policies so that state leaders can achieve their goals for children. Having a set of policy choices proven to lead to better results can help state leaders make decisions that are good for kids and that fit their unique environments at any given point in time,” said Klein.

The [Birth Through Age Eight State Policy Framework](http://earlysuccess.org/files/Alliance-State-Policy-Framework.pdf) (<http://earlysuccess.org/files/Alliance-State-Policy-Framework.pdf>) outlines three policy priority areas: health, family support, and learning that are essential for the healthy growth and development of young children. These are grounded on a foundation of standards, assessment, and accountability. The policies are aimed at all children, though an underlying principle of the Framework is that limited resources should first be allocated to the most vulnerable children at risk for poor outcomes.

The Alliance is a catalyst that brings together strategic partners, provides leadership, and curates funding and technical assistance. With an annual budget of \$7 million, the Alliance invests in three main

strategies:

- Advocacy to strengthen the capacity of traditional child advocacy organizations and non-traditional children's champions such as business and civic leaders, law enforcement, and retired military personnel;
- Policymaker leadership to inform policy and budget actions by governors, legislators, chief education officers, and state administrators;
- Knowledge and research to serve as a base for effective advocacy through unified and effective messages, user-friendly information, policy analyses and monitoring, and information sharing.

The Alliance supports policy change at the state level. Targeted supports are provided in 18 states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, Washington, and Wisconsin. In FY2013 the Alliance provided grants to 12 of those states. The Alliance also reaches all 50 states through its National Technical Assistance (TA) Network of experts and by disseminating research, communication tools, and reports.

### **About the Alliance for Early Success**

The Alliance was established in 2005 as the Birth to Five Policy Alliance through an investment by the Buffett Early Childhood Fund. Eight years later, the newly named Alliance for Early Success currently has an annual budget of \$7 million from investors: the Buffett Early Childhood Fund, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the JB and MK Pritzker Family Foundation, the George Kaiser Family Foundation, the Irving Harris Foundation, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, and an anonymous donor. Visit [earlysuccess.org](http://earlysuccess.org) to learn more about the Alliance.

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