



*Strengthening Capacity  
for State Leaders*

## **NAESP Policy Proposal for ESEA: *Principal Professional Development in Early Childhood Education***

NAESP is working with Members of Congress to advance a legislative proposal in the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) to improve the knowledge of elementary principals in all areas related to early childhood development and learning from preschool through the third grade.

The proposal seeks to support principals through professional development opportunities and mentoring programs so that they may create high-quality early learning environments, establish partnerships and collaborate with community-based early childhood education providers and families to better support learning at each developmental stage. In addition, programs will provide guidance on effective transition from early learning settings to the school building, and continuous family engagement. Specifically, the proposal will help elementary principals:

- ✓ Gain a knowledge base and capacity to provide high-quality early childhood education and support a continuum of learning from Pre-kindergarten through the third grade.
- ✓ Work collaboratively with early childhood education providers, services providers, and families in creating a continuum of high-quality development and learning for children in the community and school settings.
- ✓ Engage the school community to partner with early learning programs, and work with families to set a shared vision for understanding early childhood development.
- ✓ Support teachers through strong instructional leadership and identifying high-quality curriculum and developmentally-appropriate practices, and align on-going, job-embedded professional development opportunities on early childhood education and effective transition from early learning or home settings to the primary school years.
- ✓ Provide safe and supportive early learning environments that focus on the needs of the whole child, including the intellectual, social, emotional, physical and nutritional well-being of children.
- ✓ How to integrate early learning best practices and K-3 curriculum and standards;
- ✓ Utilize multiple measures of developmentally-appropriate assessment and acquiring the ability to manage and use data effectively to make instructional decisions.