



National Association of
Elementary School
Principals

*Serving All Elementary &
Middle Level Principals*

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