

**The Washington State Early Learning Partnership Joint Resolution Between  
The Washington State Department of Early Learning And  
The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction And  
The Washington State Department of Health And  
The Washington State Department of Social and Health Services And  
Thrive Washington**

**Whereas**, The Washington State Department of Early Learning, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Washington State Department of Health, the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, and Thrive Washington are committed to collaborate on behalf of all young children and families in Washington state to develop a strong, comprehensive early learning and care system for all children birth to age eight; and

**Whereas**, we believe that this will only be achieved through a commitment to share responsibility and accountability toward this vision; and

**Whereas**, we commit to jointly support the development of a high-quality, aligned early learning and care system that respects and reflects the rich diversity of children, families and communities throughout our state, and takes into account all areas of a child's health, growth, development and learning; and

**Whereas**, at the heart of our shared efforts is our understanding that "school readiness" encompasses five concepts:

Ready Children + Ready Parents, Families and Caregivers + Ready Early Learning Professionals  
+ Ready Schools + Ready Systems and Communities

**Ready children** are healthy and socially, emotionally, and cognitively prepared for success in school and life;

**Ready parents, families and caregivers** have the information and resources needed to be their children's first and most important teachers;

**Ready early learning professionals** are prepared and have the knowledge and responsiveness to children's "whole child" needs, different learning styles, capabilities and developmental goals so that they ensure a high-quality experience for children.

**Ready schools** are prepared to support the learning and healthy development of every child in their community; and

**Ready systems and communities** have the resources and information and resources needed to support expansion and excellence of programs and services for children, families and schools, including governance, financing, accountability, planning and communication.

**Whereas**, The Washington State Early Learning Partnership is committed to working together to create an environment of cooperation and an early learning and care system in Washington state that is capable of supporting readiness of children and schools and of engaging parents and families, and communities; and

**Whereas**, we agree that by working collaboratively and in partnership, all children in Washington may reach their full potential and will have the best opportunity to succeed in school and life;

**Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved**, that the leaders of the Washington State Early Learning Partnership acknowledge and honor the prior work and involvement of families and children, local community groups, organizations, schools, and individuals throughout the state that have passionately and diligently moved early learning programs forward; and

**Be It Further Resolved**, that development of an aligned statewide early learning and care system requires us to continue to engage stakeholders and leaders to work together toward a common vision; and

**Be It Further Resolved**, that to assure accountability and better communicate a common vision, the leaders of the Washington State Early Learning Partnership will develop and maintain shared priorities for mutual work; and

**Be It Further Resolved**, that the Washington State Early Learning Partnership defines "lead responsibility" to mean convening interested parties, including but not limited to parents, early learning and K-12 professionals, and producing key documents; and

**Be It Finally Resolved**, that key roles of partners will include participation of staff from each agency to support development and assure alignment of each priority area with programs and resources to ensure the advancement of a seamless, learner-focused, world-class early learning system in Washington state.

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**Bette Hyde**  
Director, Department of Early Learning

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**Randy Dorn**  
State Superintendent of Public Instruction

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**John Wiesman**  
Secretary, Washington State Department of Health

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**Kevin W. Quigley**  
Secretary, Washington State Department of Social and Health Services

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**Sam Whiting**  
President & CEO of Thrive Washington

*Signed this day, August 4, 2015*