



**The Dual Language Learner Early Childhood Stakeholder Group** was established in 2018 by Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning to improve access to quality early childhood education programs and services for dual language learner (DLL)<sup>1</sup> children, families, and providers. At that time, Spring Institute led Colorado in the Consortium for Improving Outcomes of Children from Immigrant and Refugee Families, a five-state consortium led by the national think tank Migration Policy Institute (MPI). The consortium examined and addressed barriers to quality Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) for DLL families. Other state partners in the consortium included the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (Massachusetts), the New York Immigration Coalition (New York), ACCESS (Michigan), and One America (Washington).

Since April 2018, Spring Institute has been convening bimonthly DLL EC Stakeholder Group meetings and an annual statewide retreat. The group includes ECE providers and advocates and representatives from state and city/county governments, early childhood councils, think tanks, and community-based organizations. The goals of the group are:

1. Ensuring that the needs of DLL families continue to be represented in the goals and activities of existing ECE initiatives in Colorado, including Colorado Home Visiting Coalition, Raise Colorado and the Colorado Children's Campaign, the FFN (Friends, Family, and Neighbors) Network, the Colorado Department of Early Childhood, and Growing Our Future Coalition.
2. Improving the quality of and funding for alternative forms of ECEC, such as home visiting, friends, family, and neighbor (FFN) care, and infant and toddler care.
3. Supporting the participation of immigrant and refugee parents in policy discussions around ECEC to ensure that prioritization, planning, and implementation of policy initiatives are inclusive of their input.
4. Advocating for policies facilitating equitable pre-kindergarten assessments in each child's first/preferred language.

The group also closely monitors and pursues emerging advocacy opportunities related to diversifying and increasing the cultural competency of the ECE workforce and improving the availability of mental health support for DLL children and families.

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<sup>1</sup> [Dual Language Learners \(DLLs\) are young children who have at least one parent who speaks a language other than English in the home](#)

**Want to get involved?**  
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