



High-Quality Early Childhood Education

Bridging the Opportunity Gap Begins in the Earliest Years.

Equity begins with the opportunities our youngest learners have to access high-quality early learning and care. Teacher leadership can inform state systems of early learning and build a comprehensive continuum of learning and development, from birth through school entry.

Teach Plus has jumpstarted a movement of early childhood educators across diverse settings, and connected K-12 teachers to legislative impact to improve access to high-quality early childhood education.

COLORADO

Teach Plus was an active participant in Governor Jared Polis's coalition advocating for funding for full-day kindergarten. Teach Plus Teacher Leaders worked with the coalition, wrote op-eds, and testified before key legislative committees to help get the bill to the governor's desk. Teach Plus continues to work with Governor Polis's office to increase access to early childhood education opportunities.



"Instead of asking if our children are ready for Kindergarten, maybe we should be asking if every kindergarten classroom is ready for them."

—Teach Plus Policy Fellow Erin Jackle, Elgin, Illinois.



"I want all preschool-age children to have the opportunity to sit at the dinner table each night and talk about their day with joy in their eyes. I want preschoolers in our state to have the opportunity to build a strong bond with their teacher, rather than wonder who the adult in their classroom will be each day."

—Teach Plus Policy Fellow Brittany Behenna Griffith,
Santa Fe, NM.



ILLINOIS

Research conducted by the inaugural Teach Plus Policy Fellowship for early childhood educators highlighted the need for developmentally appropriate, play-based instructional practices in kindergarten classrooms. Using their policy brief, *"Mastering Kids: Voices from the Field,"* Teach Plus Teacher Leaders focused their work on Illinois' new statewide tool to gauge kindergarten readiness. Teach Plus also launched the Kindergarten Readiness Innovator Initiative to bring teacher-led instructional leadership work to the early childhood space, working with teachers who propose innovative approaches to improving kindergarten readiness in their communities.

TEXAS

Teach Plus was a founding member of the coalition that successfully led advocacy efforts to invest \$6.5 billion in public education across Texas—including funds to ensure that all low-income students and English Language Learners have access to full-day preschool. Teach Plus Teacher Leaders also successfully advocated for legislation to create an Early Childhood-3rd Grade Teaching Certification, ensuring that early childhood teachers receive targeted training in the unique knowledge and teaching skills required to support the learning of the states' youngest learners.

