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DATE: December 15, 2022

SUBJECT: Nevada Developmentally Appropriate Practice Kindergarten Policy Statement

The intent and purpose of this policy statement is to provide a state-level endorsement for what constitutes developmentally appropriate practice (DAP) kindergarten in order to support Nevada educators and administrators to align practices and implementation in early learning settings. A joint endorsement by the Nevada Department of Education (NDE), Nevada State Board of Education (SBE), and Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) will reflect a unified voice for early childhood educators. It is our belief that each and every child across Nevada, birth through 3rd grade (B-3), has the right to equitable learning opportunities with educators who engage in DAP that promotes each child's optimal development and learning through a strengths-based, play-based approach to joyful, engaged learning.

This statement strives to empower teachers and classroom implementation through an evidence-based approach and sharing of best practices to help bridge the gap between 0-5 (pre-school) and K-3rd pedagogy and classroom instruction to increase student learning outcomes and engagement. National research shows that achievement gaps exist by the time children enter kindergarten and do not change substantially by 3rd grade.

Nevada early childhood leaders have adopted an aligned, statewide B-3 approach rooted in better understanding and actively addressing the disconnects between organizations and systems that contribute to opportunities and achievement gaps. Nevada early childhood leaders have implemented multiple professional learning opportunities to mitigate these disconnects, including DAP kindergarten cohorts and a B-3 Leadership Certificate program for school leaders across the state. Despite these efforts, it is difficult to enact long-term change due to limited emphasis and understanding of early childhood development and appropriate practices in K-3rd settings. Jointly endorsing the DAP kindergarten policy statement clarifies the principles of early learning and sets a foundation to scale emerging, promising practices already in place.

The NDE, ECAC, and others will continue to build a B-3 Toolkit and provide relevant professional learning, classroom inventories and coaching, and related professional resources as teachers and administrators implement DAP kindergarten consistent with this policy statement.

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It is our pleasure as leaders to endorse this policy statement and its dissemination to support implementation and best practices rooted in this work.

Nevada Department of
Education

Nevada Early Childhood
Advisory Council

Nevada State Board of
Education

Signature

Jhone M. Ebert
Superintendent of Public Instruction

Signature

Denise Tanata
Chair

Signature

Felicia Ortiz
President

Additional endorsing entities (please print):

Organization	Name	Title	Signature