

Winning Beginning NY

an early care and learning coalition

April 10, 2009

Mr. Arne Duncan
United States Secretary of Education
LBJ Education Building, Rm. 7W311
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Secretary Duncan:

On behalf of *Winning Beginning NY*, the state's early care and learning coalition, we want to thank you for your support of and commitment to early childhood education, as a key part of education reform. We are so happy to have such a strong advocate for early learning setting priorities for the nation's education agenda.

We are working closely with the Ounce of Prevention and the First Five Years Fund, in addition to other national advocates, and look forward to helping you meet your goals for early childhood education. We share your "Cradle to Career" agenda and are thrilled to see that language used at the federal level. We are in the process of creating an Early Childhood Advisory Council and eager to work with you to strengthen the early childhood system in the state, with new federal policy directions and initiatives to help guide our work. We are especially eager to create a more comprehensive and coherent approach, with a strong focus on healthy children, strong families, and early learning.

We are attaching a copy of a research brief that focuses on the value of Pre-K services in New York State and details the long-term benefits that accrue to public education when young children have access to high-quality early learning experiences. Building on the work that we did here, that research has been replicated in a number of states.

We participated in the release of the recent yearbook from the National Institute of Early Education Research and have followed your speeches and advocacy on behalf of early childhood education. We are especially heartened that you have championed educational services starting at birth as essential to education reform.

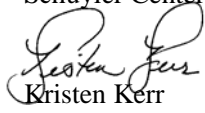
We thank you again for your dedication to early care and learning and look forward to working with you.

Thank you.

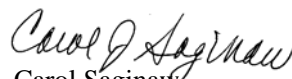
Sincerely,



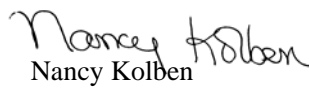
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