

## **Supporting early childhood education for all as the foundation for learning**

Research shows that early childhood education is one of the best investments we can make to prepare a child for school and life. Given the importance of linkage and coordination between early childhood education programs and elementary schools, ESSA strengthens this continuum ([http://www.aft.org/sites/default/files/essa\\_early-childhood.pdf](http://www.aft.org/sites/default/files/essa_early-childhood.pdf)).

With ESSA, Ohio can:

- Apply for preschool development grants to enhance and better coordinate early education programs in order to improve quality and access and transition into elementary school, while targeting low-income families.
- Promote better collaboration between early childhood education programs and elementary schools by providing joint professional learning opportunities.
- Use Title III funds for early childhood education and to support school readiness and the transition from early childhood education programs for English learners.

Questions to ask state and district decision makers:

- Will the state apply for grants that will support early childhood education programs?
- Will the importance of early childhood education be reflected in a state plan and in a state budget?

[www.ESSAOpportunity.org](http://www.ESSAOpportunity.org)