

**Proposed Resolution  
Early Learning**

~~Strikethrough print~~ represents text which has been deleted.

***Bold and italicized print*** represents text which has been added or modified.

*Delta Council is encouraged by the emphasis placed on early childhood learning in the State and specifically the Mississippi Delta, and recognizes the need to place even more attention on our region's youngest learners. The brain develops more than 75% of its emotional and intellectual development before the First Grade, and studies confirm that students who begin their formal education without adequate early childhood education rarely catch up to their peers.*

*Delta Council applauds the efforts of business leaders working through the Delta Early Learning Leadership Initiative (DELLI). This collaboration between Delta Council leaders, Delta Health Alliance, Children's Defense Fund, Mississippi State University Institute for Early Childhood Development, and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation has provided focus and policy goals for achieving a better delivery system for early childhood efforts in the Delta. In the absence of greatly enhanced funding vehicles for early childhood efforts during the next few years, this group has taken seriously the message from State policy and education leaders to search for viable pilot programs that can be implemented region and statewide when funds become available. Delta Council is encouraged by the pilot programs that have been implemented in Leflore and Sunflower Counties among the above partners, as well as others such as Mississippi Valley State University, and urge that this critical work continue.*

