

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

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

## Resolution

### Early Learning

Delta Council is encouraged by the emphasis placed on early childhood learning in the State and specifically the Mississippi Delta. ~~We recognize the need to place even more attention on our region's youngest learners.~~ The brain gains 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 with their peers.

Delta Council applauds the early efforts of business leaders who joined together 15 years ago to work 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 provided focus and policy goals for achieving a better delivery system for early childhood efforts in the Delta.

Delta Council is encouraged by steps taken by State officials to establish early childhood programs, and we encourage State policymakers, ~~and~~ the Mississippi Department of Education, ***and others*** to consider the successful early childhood models of in the Delta that have been used by Delta Health Alliance as they ~~embark on~~ ***continue*** efforts in our region ***with particular emphasis on their work in the Indianola Promise Community and Deer Creek Promise Community, modeled after the groundbreaking work of the Harlem Children's Zone.***

~~Delta Council has confidence in the efforts of Delta Health Alliance as it implements a Delta Promise Community in Indianola. Delta Health Alliance is initiating the intensive U.S. Department of Education pilot program based on the groundbreaking work of the Harlem Children's Zone. We are committed to this pilot achieving meaningful results. We hope that it can be replicated in the Deer Creek Promise Zone and across the region in the future.~~

~~Delta Council is encouraged by the 2013 actions by Governor Phil Bryant and the Mississippi Department of Education to establish a framework for State leadership in early childhood education. We urge leaders of the State Department of Education and the Mississippi Medicaid offices to review the merits of the proven early childhood models in this region and to work with the business and professional leadership of the Delta to expand this effort in a way that promotes outcomes measurements and accountability of public and private investments in these programs.~~

Adopted by: Delta Council Board of Directors  
November 10, 2017

