The Education & Workforce Development Council of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce convenes and establishes a strong voice for the business and civic community to transform education and workforce development in Los Angeles and statewide. The council advocates for improved alignment and articulation of the full pipeline from early childhood to K-12 to post-secondary and workforce – cradle to career – and is committed to identifying opportunities to re-engage disconnected youth to develop a 21st century workforce capable of competing in a global economy.

Support increased expansion and investment in early care and education and children’s health
Support local, state and federal efforts to strengthen quality early care and education expansion and investments to ensure school readiness. The expansion of Transitional Kindergarten, coupled with 0-3, investments in quality early care and education provide the foundation necessary to cultivate a skilled workforce by narrowing the achievement gap and giving young children a solid base in critical early social and academic skills. The Chamber supports efforts to better coordinate and integrate early care and education with the K-12 system in order to develop seamless alignment and promote efforts to expand children’s health programs, such as childhood obesity prevention and access to quality dental care, to ensure students are healthy and ready to learn.

Improve student outcomes and funding for K-12 students
The Chamber champions Linked Learning as a strategy for secondary reform, which integrates rigorous academics with career-based learning and real world workplace experience in a wide range of fields, and with a special focus on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics (STEAM).

The Chamber supports the development of a new enlightened accountability system, resulting from AB 484 (Bonilla) that is based on principle of subsidiarity, self-accountability supports and transparency and promote efforts to revive the teaching profession by incorporating ideas from the “Greatness by Design” report to help transform teaching and learning. Support implementation of local control funding formula (new school funding formula) that ensures equity, transparency and flexibility and build local engagement and capacity.

Increase access to and success in higher education
A skilled workforce is essential to building a thriving economy. To ensure a competitive workforce, we must support an ambitious higher education agenda that is focused on improving the quality and affordability of California’s higher education system, while holding institutions accountable for improving students’ educational outcomes and access to economic prosperity. This includes supporting the local implementation of the Student Success Task Force recommendations, expanding access to financial aid, promoting dual enrollment, full implementation of the SB 440 transfer framework and augmenting funding for community college career technical education programs through innovative new funding models.

Leverage federal funds and workforce development resources to create jobs
To sustain our region’s economic recovery efforts, a skilled and competitive workforce is critical for our businesses to succeed and grow. It is vital that we continue to invest in efficient and effective workforce development programs, including paid work experiences and internships for young adults, which are critical to bolstering the region’s economy and getting people back to work. This includes investments in the Workforce Investment Act, sector intermediaries, adult education, increase of U.S. citizens and job development support services to address the needs of returning veterans.