

the Ounce

STATE POLICY MINI UPDATE AS OF JULY 2013

This report for the Peer Advocate Roundtable Network
is brought to you by the National Policy Team at the
Ounce of Prevention Fund

 = Recent/Proposed Budget Cut  = Recent/Proposed Budget Increase/Restoration
 = Funds held level  = Policy Change  = Pending Policy Change

Overview: This mini update provides a snapshot of what has recently happened in each state during the 2013 legislative sessions as of July 2013, along with policy updates since October 2012. In the late fall, there will be a state policy update looking forward to the upcoming 2014 state legislative session with corresponding policy priorities, political challenges and opportunities, linkages being developed between early childhood and K-12, and implementation of RTT-ELC grants.

Previous versions of the state policy update can be found on our [webpage](http://www.ounceofprevention.org/advocacy/national-policy.php):
<http://www.ounceofprevention.org/advocacy/national-policy.php>.

The **Ounce of Prevention Fund** gives children in poverty the best chance for success in school and in life by advocating for and providing the highest quality care and education from birth to age 5.

The **Ounce National Policy Team** partners with and supports early childhood leaders in states as they advance a comprehensive agenda for at-risk children and families. We do this by providing individualized strategy and policy consultation and resources; facilitating peer-to-peer learning and networking across states; and supporting Educare Schools and the Educare Learning Network in the development of their policy and advocacy work.

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Arizona

BIRTH TO FIVE POLICY PRIORITIES

2013 Agenda

- Restore general fund match to Child Care Development Fund (CCDF).
- Align subsidy policy with quality rating system.
- Implement statewide Kindergarten Entry Assessment.
- Implement statewide, connected data system.

Ideas or Topics in Development

- Evolution of child care subsidies to be tied into early literacy.
- Aligning school district 3rd grade reading plans to early literacy and early education.

RECENT STATE BUDGET CHANGES

- ⊕ The FY 2014 Arizona budget includes increased funding for Child Protective Services (CPS) staffing and Children Support Services. These include:
 - \$12.9 million increase to hire 150 child protective caseworkers and related staff.
 - \$4 million increase of the \$10 million proposed for Children Support Services for children in CPS.
 - \$9 million increase for Child Care to fund the increase in child care needed for children in the Child Protective Services system.
- ⊕ \$1 million for Grandparents Stipend that establishes a \$75/month stipend for qualified grandparents raising their grandchildren.
- ⊕ \$5 million for Intensive Family Services – creates a new line item for services to help parents keep children safely at home.

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California

BIRTH TO FIVE POLICY PRIORITIES

2013 Agenda

- Restore, preserve, and build ECE funding in CA.
- Coordinate budget messaging in print materials and in-person testimony, social media and online advocacy, and meetings with legislative offices.
- Build the ECE system to expand and enhance opportunities for CA's early learners.
 - Support Educare Los Angeles.
 - Inform the public about the benefits of Transitional Kindergarten (TK) to support implementation and to protect against political challenges. In its first year, TK served 39,000 students out of roughly 41,500 who were eligible.
 - Work with the California Department of Education (CDE) to support the work and implementation of the RTT-ELC grant.
 - Publicize milestones of the First 5 California Signature Program.
- Advance policy for infants and toddlers in order to ensure protected and expanded access to high quality child development services.
- Convene the CA Infant Toddler Advocacy Workgroup that advocated heavily on the state budget on behalf of infants and toddlers.

Ideas or Topics in Development

- Plan advocacy messaging and communications to achieve reinvestment in ECE programs in CA and to highlight the need for, and components of, quality ECE.
- Begin work to increase the frequency of licensing inspections in CA to build a strong foundation for higher quality ECE.
- Infant Toddler Advocacy Workgroup will focus on ECE access for vulnerable young children in the child welfare system.

RECENT STATE BUDGET CHANGES

ECE received a small down payment to restore funds lost in previous years:

-  \$25 million in new funds for the CA State Preschool Program.
-  \$10 million in unspent child care funds redirected to expand non-CalWORKs child care.
-  \$15.8 million to backfill federal sequester cuts.

POLICY UPDATES

-  **The CA Comprehensive Early Learning Plan:** On May 1, 2013, the State Advisory Council on Early Learning and Care approved the publication of the plan, and the announcement of a final version is expected this summer. A draft of the plan can be downloaded at <http://glenpricegroup.com/ccelp/>.
-  **QRIS:** California's 17 regional leadership consortia are hard at work on QRIS implementation as a part of the RTT-ELC grant.



Realignment of CalWORKs child care to the county level was proposed as a part of the Governor's January 2013 budget, but was defeated.

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Colorado

BIRTH TO FIVE POLICY PRIORITIES

2013 Agenda

- Expand the newly created Office of Early Childhood (OEC) within the Dept. of Human Services to include home visiting and prevention services from the Dept. of Public Health & Environment.
- Reauthorize the Early Childhood Leadership Commission (ECLC), Colorado's Early Childhood State Advisory Council. Expand the role of the ECLC to include serving as advisory to OEC.
- Ensure the School Readiness Assessment is deployed statewide over the 2013 and 2014 school years. In December, the Board of Education voted to support a menu of assessments that met certain criteria. To date, Teaching Strategies GOLD® is the only tool that has met the criteria.
- Ensure the incorporation of the School Finance Partnership's early childhood recommendations into SB13-213, "Future School Finance Act." (School Finance Partnership is a stakeholder group charged to examine how Colorado currently funds public schools and to propose an overhaul of Colorado's school funding system.)
- Ensure state- and county-level implementation of the intent HB10-1035 which extends eligibility in the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP) from six months to 12 months, reduces reporting requirements for families, and further aligns eligibility periods with the Head Start program year for children enrolled in both programs.
- Strengthen 0-3 standards within child care rules and regulations to reduce group size in infant classrooms from 10 to 9 and require that a primary caregiver be assigned to each infant.

Ideas or Topics in Development

- The Colorado Children's Campaign, Clayton Early Learning, and Executives Partnering to Invest in Children (EPIC) will initiate a stakeholder engagement process to examine the policies and procedures governing CCCAP in August. Potential areas for reform of the program may include, but are not limited to:
 - Consistency of eligibility and authorization to promote continuity of care;
 - Higher and consistent provider payments across counties and tiered reimbursement;
 - Assess Child Care Automated Tracking System (CHATS) and technological recommendations;
 - Contracting slots with high-quality programs to support stability in child care industry and build capacity within programs;
 - Simplification of CCCAP application and eligibility re-determination processes; and
 - Transparency in tracking CCCAP expenditures and address county under-spending.
- Begin planning for 2014 Early Childhood Advocacy Day to advance policy objectives.
- Advocate for passage of ballot initiative to fund education reforms in SB13-213, including the unprecedented expansion of the Colorado Preschool Program (CPP) and universal offering of full-day Kindergarten. Continue the effective mixed delivery model for CPP with state partners and early childhood stakeholders.
- Provide content expertise and technical assistance in implementation of HB13-1291, "Colorado Infant and Toddler Quality and Availability Grant Program."
- Work with the OEC to establish a metric for tracking continuity of care of children in CCCAP.
- Map short- and long-term "smart growth in ECE" in Colorado by working on the Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST) program, expansion in state-funded preschool and potentially more federal dollars for early childhood through the President's proposal.
- Build a coalition to support and advocate for the President's Early Childhood initiative.

RECENT STATE BUDGET CHANGES

-  \$800,000 increase in the Nurse Home Visitor Program to expand direct services to six additional counties in northeast Colorado.
-  \$4.5 million increase in Early Intervention Colorado.
-  Approximately \$10 million increase to support the addition of 3,200 Colorado Preschool Program slots through SB13-260.

PROPOSED STATE BUDGET CHANGES

-  Initiative #22: Funding for Public Schools. This Nov. 2013 ballot initiative could raise nearly \$1 billion to implement education reforms pursuant to SB13-213. Of those funds, an estimated \$47 million is required for expansion of the Colorado Preschool Program (CPP), and \$105 million to support full-day Kindergarten.

POLICY UPDATES

-  **Governance:** HB13-1117 “The Alignment of Early Childhood Programs” was signed into law May 2013. The legislation 1) moves the Nurse Home Visitor Program, the Tony Grampas Youth Services Program; the Colorado Children’s Trust Fund; and the Family Resource Center program to Dept. of Human Services; 2) reauthorizes the ECLC for another 5 years.
-  **Infant and Toddlers:** HB13-1291 legislation creates the Colorado Infant and Toddler Quality and Availability Grant Program within CDHS. The \$3 million encourages local early childhood councils and county departments of human services to partner to increase the quality and availability of care for programs serving infants and toddlers through CCCAP.
-  **Preschool Funding:** SB13-260 included \$10 million funding to increase enrollment in the Colorado Preschool Program by 3,200 slots through the state’s 2013-2014 School Finance Act. Districts can also choose to use the money to add a second half day for children already being served in CPP to create a full day or add the second half of the day to support at-risk kindergarteners. The Senate stripped from this bill the Expanding Quality Incentive Program (EQUIP), which would have created a \$5 million grant program to support school districts seeking quality ratings and improvements for their preschool programs.
-  **School Finance Reform** SB13-213: “The Future School Finance Act” will modernize Colorado’s education financing system by expanding access to high quality early childhood education, pending the passage of a statewide ballot initiative to approve requisite funding. The legislation would remove the cap on the number of slots available for the Colorado Preschool Program (current cap is 20,160 slots), allowing all at-risk 3- and 4-year olds to participate. In addition, the bill would increase access to full-day Kindergarten for families wishing to attend. According to the Office of Legislative Council, the expansion would include 25,500 new Colorado Preschool slots based on risk factors and 46,000 more students enrolled in full-day Kindergarten (if all choose to enroll in full-day K).



Immunizations: SB13-222 is the Childhood Vaccinations bill, which improves access to immunizations by streamlining the financing and delivery of vaccines. It establishes an inclusive stakeholder process designed to deliver innovative strategies to maximize efficiency in the purchase and distribution of childhood vaccines.



Child Care licensing: HB13-1084 “Licensing Status of Entities Under the Child Care Licensing Act” requires the State Department to treat a previously licensed child care entity that is issued a new FEIN as a renewal instead of requiring submission of an original application when the following occur: the reason for the new FEIN is solely due to a change in corporate structure; the management or governing body of the entity remains the same as originally licensed; and the facility or facilities are the same as those originally licensed. The bill requires that only newly hired employees undergo background checks.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Florida

BIRTH TO FIVE POLICY PRIORITIES

2013 Agenda

- Adequate funding for Florida’s School Readiness program (subsidized child care) and expand the population served from 0-5 to 0-8, to ensure children are reading proficiently by 3rd grade.
- Support high-quality Voluntary Prekindergarten program (VPK) including comprehensive VPK and Kindergarten readiness assessments.
- Expand access to KidCare (health insurance) to include children of lawfully-residing immigrants.
- Restore licensure standards – there are a large number of license-exempt programs and a recent removal of early learning coalition authority to monitor health and safety standards in license-exempt programs that may have negative impacts on health and safety of children.

Ideas or Topics in Development

- Review accreditation standards and processes to determine potential alignment and integration for developing state quality benchmarks and/or a statewide QRIS.
- Universal developmental screenings and assessments.
- Adequate funding for Early Steps program (Early Intervention Part C).
- Statewide information system on child development via phone and website.
- Quality and performance standards to be included in the newly created statewide School Readiness (subsidized child care) contract.
- In the future, explore how to take local QRIS systems to scale for statewide implementation.

RECENT STATE BUDGET CHANGES

- ⊕ \$5.1 million increase in School Readiness (subsidized child care) funding.
- ⊕ \$3 million increase in Early Steps (Early Intervention Part C) program to address growing need for autism-related screening and services.

PROPOSED STATE BUDGET CHANGES

- ⊕ \$50 million increase in School Readiness funding to address 60,000+ waitlist for child care subsidies.
- ⊕ Increase the per-child allocation for Voluntary Prekindergarten program from the current level of \$2,383 per child per year to \$3,000 per child.

POLICY UPDATES

- Ⓟ **Comprehensive Early Learning Bill:** The 2013 Florida legislative session resulted in passage of ‘Part 1’ of a comprehensive early learning bill (HB 7165) that clarifies governance of the state Office of Early Learning, as well as the roles and responsibilities of local early learning coalitions and child care providers. Specifically, HB 7165:
 - Establishes the Office of Early Learning within the Department of Education’s ‘Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice.’
 - Requires the Office of Early Learning to adopt a list of approved curricula;

identify a pre- and post-assessment; and adopt a statewide, standardized contract with each School Readiness program (subsidized child care) provider.

- Revises the market rate schedule.
- Revises the eligibility criteria and priorities for enrollment.
- Places a 22% cap on School Readiness (subsidized child care) expenditures for any combination of administrative costs, non-direct services, and quality activities per fiscal year.
- Requires private providers to maintain a minimum level of general liability insurance.
- Includes provisions for fraud investigations and penalties.
- Requires the Early Learning Advisory Council to periodically analyze and provide recommendations regarding the School Readiness program to the Office of Early Learning.
- Authorizes after-school programs that are otherwise excluded from licensure to provide snacks and meals through the federally funded After School Meals Program (AMP).

Note: For 2014 legislative session, it is anticipated that an early learning bill ('Part 2') will be developed to address some of these issues.

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Illinois

BIRTH TO FIVE POLICY PRIORITIES

2013 Agenda

- Roll back cuts to Early Childhood Block Grant.
- Protect funding for the other key components of the early childhood system (child care, early intervention, home visiting, bilingual education).
- Implement priorities of IL Race to the Top, including improving the overall quality of early childhood programs, impacting instructional quality, and enhancing workforce preparation.
- Improve access to quality child care through raised income eligibility guidelines and lower parent co-payments.
- Work to improve the higher education curricula, including a focus on early numeracy, language and literacy, social emotional skills, data driven practice and special education.
- Ensure the statutory workforce requirements for preschool bilingual education can be met by July 2014.
- Improve special education evaluation and service delivery (Part B and C) in Chicago Public Schools and statewide.
- Strengthen the infrastructure and delivery of home visiting programs, including establishing effective coordinated intake and universal screening systems.
- Integrate early childhood mental health consultation with home visiting programs and other early childhood initiatives to ensure that staff working directly with families are trained in addressing the mental health needs of caregivers and young children.
- Develop a comprehensive monitoring system to ensure quality and fidelity in early childhood programs across the state.
- Work with the Department of Healthcare and Family Services to ensure that children's mental health issues are effectively addressed in the managed health care system.
- Implement Medicaid expansion covering dental visits for pregnant women.
- Monitor roll-out of pilot and expanded implementation of Kindergarten Readiness Assessment.
- Advance a statewide unified data system.
- Impact the rule-making process to ensure that the Early Childhood and Elementary Endorsements for teacher licensure encompass a grade span that maximizes teachers' knowledge of and expertise in early childhood.
- Participate in efforts to respond to the expiration of the 2011 tax increase, including the potential restructuring of tax system and other revenue generation strategies.
- Work with the Chicago Early Learning Executive Council to make recommendations regarding coordinated assessment and quality improvement in Chicago Preschool for All and Head Start programs.

Ideas or Topics in Development

- Develop advocacy materials on how the pricing of child care and co-payments impacts low-income families.
- Develop recommendations to expand Medicaid to cover some components of home visiting programs.
- Advance policy recommendations for increasing access, improving quality as it relates to cultural and linguistic competency, and bolstering the workforce to meet the demand in demographic growth of Latino infants and toddlers.

- Advance policy recommendations to prepare all Illinois teachers to meet the needs of culturally and linguistically diverse students.
- Create a coordinated state response to the President’s proposal to expand investments in early childhood education.
- Develop recommendations and advocacy materials on federal bill to reauthorize the Child Care and Development Block Grant (S. 1086).
- Explore how care coordination and the implementation of the Affordable Care Act will impact health care for pregnant women and families with young children and create opportunities for expanded health coverage.

RECENT STATE BUDGET CHANGES



In the final FY14 state budget, the Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG), home visiting, and bilingual education were flat funded even though the State Board of Education proposed a \$40 million increase for the ECBG.



\$7.9 million increase of the \$9 million proposed for the Child Care Assistance Program.



\$2.8 million increase of the \$7.8 million proposed for Early Intervention (Part C).

POLICY UPDATES



Child Care Co-Payments: The state announced a reduction in co-payments for child care assistance.



RTT-ELC: Awarded \$52.2M in Race to the Top second-round and supplemental funding from the federal government.



Early Learning Guidelines: Roll out of cross-system trainings on birth to five Early Learning Guidelines and Standards.



Child Care Standards: Adoption of obesity prevention standards for child care by the Early Learning Council.



Perinatal Depression Screening: Awaiting publication of rules for public comment regarding perinatal depression screening by medical providers.

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Kansas

BIRTH TO FIVE POLICY PRIORITIES

2013 Agenda

- Maintain funding for early childhood programs financed through the Children’s Initiatives Fund (CIF) in the face of dramatically reduced tobacco revenues anticipated beginning in FY2014.
- Restore the state Child and Dependent Care credit that was eliminated as part of the governor’s tax package in 2012.

Ideas or Topics in Development

- Maintain the State Earned Income Tax Credit and restore all or part of the Food Sales Tax Rebate that was eliminated in the Governor’s 2012 tax package. These supports are critical in light of the fact that children under age five are more likely to live in poverty.

RECENT STATE BUDGET CHANGES

-  For the first time in almost 60 years, the State adopted a two-year budget. Although assurances have been made that there will be a supplemental budget bill next year, there will be much less opportunity for lawmakers to address unanticipated budgetary needs.
-  The Governor set aside \$7 million from the CIF for a literacy program. After the legislative process this amount was earmarked for a software program to improve literacy, creating a challenge to redirect this funding to a more comprehensive, effective program to improve early literacy outcomes.
-  Maintained \$55 million in funding for early childhood financed through the Children’s Initiatives Fund for each year in the biennium budget.

PROPOSED STATE BUDGET CHANGES

-  The administration has discussed a significant investment in afterschool literacy programs using TANF made available by administrative changes limiting access to traditional TANF assistance.

POLICY UPDATES

-  **EITC:** For the second year in a row, the Earned Income Tax Credit was under threat of elimination or reduction in several tax reform proposals considered by lawmakers. In the end, the EITC was saved.
-  **Tax Policy:** 2013 tax policy changes resulted in a sales tax increase which is regressive and disproportionately impacts lower-income families.
-  **Targeted Communities Strategy:** The Kansas Children’s Cabinet, charged with oversight of the CIF, has shifted the focus from statewide to 9 targeted communities. This creates a battle to maintain funding for current programs that are proven to be successful for at-risk young children, but fall outside of the targeted communities.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Louisiana

BIRTH TO FIVE POLICY PRIORITIES

2013 Agenda

- Monitor implementation of Act 3 from the 2012 Louisiana Legislative Session, the Early Childhood Education Act. By the 2015-2016 school year, the State Board of Education must create “a comprehensive and integrated network through which to manage and oversee all programs funded through state or federal resources that provide early childhood care and educational services.” Thirteen pilots of the new system are in progress.
- Ensure through targeted campaigns that the policies created under Act 3 implementation reflect current research and best practice, and expand access to high quality early care and education for Louisiana’s at-risk children ages birth to five. New state policies will encompass:
 - Rewrite the child care regulations in the Fall of 2013.
 - Revamp the current Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS), and expand QRIS to all publicly funded early childhood care and education programs statewide (including child care centers receiving child care assistance, Head Start and Early Head Start programs, and all publicly funded pre-k programs).
 - Transfer the administration of the Child Care Development Fund Block Grant and licensing to the Department of Education.
- Educate State Board of Education and key legislative committee members on the importance of early childhood and how quality should be defined and measured in early childhood programs.
- Build a coalition and new champions to support high quality early childhood programs.

Ideas or Topics in Development

- Align rules and regulations to facilitate braiding of funding streams.
- Voters’ Guide to candidates’ positions on early childhood issues for gubernatorial and other elections in 2015.

RECENT STATE BUDGET CHANGES

-  Entire \$75.9 million for the LA 4 pre-k program was preserved for the new fiscal year, and previous use of one-time funds shifted to TANF funds.
-  School Readiness Tax Credits were preserved, which serve as the state match and maintenance of effort for the CCDF Block Grant.
-  The Early Childhood Supports and Services program, a mental health prevention and intervention program for children from birth to age five, was eliminated (\$6.3 million).
-  Major cuts made to health care for children from birth to age five, with a \$408 million decrease from FY 2013 (appropriated) to FY 2014 (recommended), a 49% reduction.

POLICY UPDATES

-  **Early Learning Standards:** New Birth to Five Early Learning & Development Standards, aligned with the Common Core standards, were adopted by the State Board of Education.

- P** **Assessment Pilot:** The State Board of Education voted to pilot new assessments (CLASS and Teaching Strategies GOLD) before launching a new rating system statewide.
- P** **Child Assessment:** The Early Childhood Education Act of 2012 called for the use of a child assessment as the basis of the new rating system. The State Board of Education added the requirement that any child assessment used in the new rating system must be developmentally appropriate, inform instruction, interactions, activities and routines, and communicate child progress to parents (Teaching Strategies GOLD are being used in the pilots).
- P** **Program Assessment:** The State Board of Education added the requirement that a research-based program assessment will be part of the new rating system (CLASS is being used in the pilots).
- P** **Child Care Licenses:** Act 179 of the 2013 Legislative Session creates three levels of child care licenses in Louisiana: Type I corresponds to current Class B centers and limits this type of center in the future only to church and religious organizations; Type II corresponds to current Class A centers; and Type III, a new class, is for centers that take public funds, including Head Start/Early Head Start, PreK, and child care assistance. Type III centers will be required to participate in the new rating system. The Act also calls for the current child care regulations to be rewritten in 2013.
- P** **Governance:** Senate Concurrent Resolution 76 of the 2013 Legislative requests the Department of Children and Family Services and the Department of Education to determine the feasibility of transferring the Child Care Development Fund lead agency authority and associated functions to the Department of Education, and to submit a plan to the House and Senate Committees on Education and Health and Welfare before the 2014 Legislative Session.

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Maine

BIRTH TO FIVE POLICY PRIORITIES

2013 Agenda

- Increase quality access for low-income children to all early childhood services/systems.
- Restore funding to state-funded Early Head Start, Head Start, subsidized child care, and home visiting.
- Promote Educare as a statewide model and policy platform.
- Provide information for policy makers, thought leaders and the general community.

Ideas or Topics in Development

- Education and outreach to assure that a legislative Pre-K initiative is integrated with community providers and that quality care for younger children is improved in the process.
- Assure full CCDF funding with DHHS via rulemaking, child care advisory committee, and other informal administrative advocacy.
- Seek state appropriation for Head Start and ensure state match for CCDF for SFY 2015.

RECENT STATE BUDGET CHANGES



Home Visiting reduced by another \$1.5 million.



Biennial budget includes \$1.3 million restored for state-funded Head Start in SFY 2014 also to be used to draw down \$2.6 million in CCDF match for child care. The Governor vetoed the budget, but that action was overridden by a 2/3 vote of the Maine House and Senate; one of only a handful of vetoes overturned by the Legislature.

POLICY UPDATES



Training: Dept. of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is adopting “Triple P” (Positive Parenting Program) across all child related sectors of Department to prevent ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences).



Child Care Auditing: DHHS seeking to disqualify parents and their children from CCDF for program violations without first proving the violation was intentional in the proposed state plan. They are also proposing sweeping and frequent auditing.



Department of Education is pursuing common Kindergarten Assessment and Race to the Top application.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Michigan

BIRTH TO FIVE POLICY PRIORITIES

2013 Agenda

- Expand publicly funded preschool, the Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP). GSRP prevents 29,000 eligible four-year-olds from enrolling in the program.

Ideas or Topics in Development

- Continue to expand GSRP in the new grant year. Governor Snyder has already called for another \$65 million to expand GSRP further in FY 2015.
- Assist the Office of Great Start (OGS) with outreach for GSRP expansion. The Center for Michigan and the Children’s Leadership Council of Michigan (CLCM) and other partners will work closely with OGS to identify and carry out outreach and communications with key audiences (intermediate school districts, private nonprofit providers, philanthropy, community-based organizations, parent groups, and hard-to-reach, low-income families) to foster growth in the number of GSRP classrooms and raise parent awareness of existing and new opportunities.
- Strengthen efforts to assure the healthy growth of infants and toddlers. We will identify specific 0-3 initiatives with demonstrable value to children, families, businesses, and taxpayers and work toward advocating for them in 2014.

RECENT STATE BUDGET CHANGES



The final budget included Governor Snyder’s recommendation to increase funding for GSRP by \$65 million for a total of \$174 million, with an increase in the slot amount from \$3,400 to \$3,625 per child, creating an additional 16,000 half-day slots.

POLICY UPDATES



Preschool: There were several policy changes with the increased GSRP funding:

- Requires that at least 90 percent of participating children are living in households with incomes at 250 percent FPL or below.
- Requires that the children living with families whose income is in the poorest quintile are served first, then those in the next lowest quintile, and so on.
- Allows up to seven percent of the grant amount to be used for administrative services and up to two percent for recruiting and public awareness.
- Requires GSRP sites to participate in Great Start to Quality and have a minimum of a three-star quality rating.
- Requires grant recipients to use a sliding scale of tuition rates, approved by the Michigan Department of Education, based on household income for families above 250 percent FPL.
- Requires all GSRP/Head Start blended programs to adhere to Head Start and

GSRP policies and regulations, with adherence to the highest standard.

- Requires intermediate school districts (ISDs) or a consortium of ISDs to contract at least 30 percent of its total slot allocation with interested and eligible public and private community-based providers.

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Mississippi

BIRTH TO FIVE POLICY PRIORITIES

2013 Agenda

- Secure public funds for Mississippi Building Blocks – a research-based quality improvement project for 3- and 4- year olds in center-based child care.
- Secure public funds for the Early Learning Collaboration Act, which passed in 2007 but was never funded.
- Require attendance for children enrolled in Kindergarten.

Ideas or Topics in Development

- Develop a unified child care provider coalition around better programs and services for vulnerable young children in Mississippi.
- Cultivate high-level champions to support increased state investments in young children.

RECENT STATE BUDGET CHANGES

-  \$3 million for Mississippi Building Blocks.
-  \$3 million for first time state-funded Prekindergarten.

POLICY UPDATES

-  **Kindergarten Compulsory Attendance:** For children enrolled in kindergarten, HB 1530 and SB 2347 require children enrolled in kindergarten to attend.
-  **Prekindergarten program:** SB 2395 directs the Department of Education to implement a state pre-kindergarten program on a phased-in basis. This bill also codified the state's early childhood advisory committee.
-  **Third grade reading/end social promotion bill:** SB 2347 establishes a program of intensive reading intervention in kindergarten through third grade. Any child who cannot read above the lowest achievement level (in other words, read at "Basic" or above) must repeat third grade and be given additional assistance and intensive tutoring. The law also prohibits social promotion for every grade level.

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Nebraska

BIRTH TO FIVE POLICY PRIORITIES

2013 Agenda

- Increase investment in high quality programs for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers.
- Refine criteria for a possible QRIS. Secure funds for development, maintenance, professional development, and tiered-reimbursement.
- Create an Early Childhood Professional Record System.
- Increase child care subsidy income eligibility level.
- Require liability insurance for child care providers
- Improve basic requirements for licensed child care.
- Expand use of tax levy dollars to include early childhood programs.
- Invest in parent education and early literacy development for incarcerated parents of young children who are transitioning back home.

Ideas or Topics in Development

- Incentivize the 14 school districts with children most at-risk of failing school to “demonstrate” braiding existing early childhood funds.
- Require common measures for all publically-funded home visitation programs.
- Equalize child care provider payment rates in rural Nebraska.
- Participate in a legislative early childhood interim study addressing possible policy strategies around QRIS implementation, a statewide kindergarten assessment system, a unified early childhood data system and economic and geographic barriers to quality early childhood education opportunities.

RECENT STATE BUDGET CHANGES

-  \$11 million increase (over 3 years) in high quality services for infants and toddlers and their families through the Sixpence Early Childhood Endowment.
-  5 step QRIS legislation passed and funded. Includes provider incentives beginning at step 2 and tiered reimbursement beginning at step 3.
-  \$500,000 increase (over 2 years) in home visitation funding.

POLICY UPDATES

-  **QRIS:** Providers who accept subsidized child care funds of \$500,000 or more annually are required to participate in the QRIS in 2014 and thereafter. Providers who accept subsidized child care funds of \$250,000 or more are required to participate in the QRIS in 2015 and thereafter. Other early childhood providers may participate voluntarily.
-  **Child Care Eligibility:** Child care subsidy income eligibility was increased from 120% FPL to 125% (2013) and 130% (2014).
-  **Workforce:** An Early Childhood Professional Record System was created to collect professional workforce data beginning March 1, 2014.

- P** **Child Care Regulations:** Liability insurance will be required for all child care license applicants and current licensed child care providers of at least \$100,000 per occurrence beginning July 1, 2014.
- P** **Background Checks:** Basic requirements for licensed child care were updated administratively. Among the updates, any person with a criminal history of child abuse, kidnapping, and other child-related or violent crimes is prohibited from operating or working in a child care program.
- P** **Revenue Option:** One and a half-cent of the two cent tax levy for learning communities can be used for early childhood programs.
- P** **Literacy Pilot:** Pilot program for parent education and early literacy development was established for incarcerated parents transitioning back home.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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New Mexico

BIRTH TO FIVE POLICY PRIORITIES

2013 Agenda

- Develop and advocate for the Home Visiting Accountability Act.
- Use cost modeling tool to create a New Mexico child care template budget.
- Build coalition of early childhood advocates.

Ideas or Topics in Development

- Advance quality childcare based on policy recommendation related to cost modeling, Shared Services and other in-depth analysis of our current childcare system.
- Advance quality Pre-K through analysis of current policy and practice and make policy recommendations where appropriate.
- Advance quality childcare through support of Children Youth and Families Department new FOCUS TQRIS and related issues including funding.
- Advance professional development and wage incentives for the early childhood workforce, to include registered family home caregivers.
- Continued analysis of early childhood financing strategies.

RECENT STATE BUDGET CHANGES

-  General fund increase of \$22 million, which includes \$2.2 million for home visiting, \$10.8 million for NM PreK, and \$9 million for child care
-  One year appropriation of \$9.75 million in tobacco settlement appropriated for early childhood with \$2 million for home visiting, \$2 million for child care, and \$5.75 million for NM PreK.

POLICY UPDATES

-  **Home Visiting:** Passed the Home Visiting Accountability Act in 2013 legislative session, which creates a framework for “standards-based” home visiting, ensuring a level of quality and consistency in home visiting programs around the State. It ensures a level of accountability for reporting, sharing outcomes, and understanding the State’s return on investment. It uses data to drive decision-making: by requiring that programs report their data and analyzing it in a uniform way.
-  **Procurement:** SB247 Procurement Procedures will allow the Children Youth and Family Department to use the same NM PreK application process as the Public Education Department. About half of NM PreK funding goes to public schools and about half to community-based programs, such as private early care and education centers, Head Starts and family child care homes that contract with CYFD. NM PreK community-based applications for funding will still be competitive but will involve a 13-page application instead of a 100- to 150-page proposal.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Oklahoma

BIRTH TO FIVE POLICY PRIORITIES

2013 Agenda

- Implement a pilot to link selected early childhood data with the education student information system
- Increase family participation in early childhood policy discussions by developing active local parent coalitions
- Review and assure the early childhood education competencies for licensure and certification align with college curriculum for early childhood professionals
- Partner with the Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy to develop a formal early childhood advocacy coalition

Ideas or Topics in Development

- Develop a statewide comprehensive early literacy plan
- Redesign existing child care quality rating and improvement system
- Explore potential for child care subsidy reforms that promote continuity and quality of care

RECENT STATE BUDGET CHANGES

-  Increase to Dept. of Education to enhance the student data system, which will include connecting early childhood with education data.
-  \$44 million increase to enhance the Child Welfare and Developmental Disabilities Systems; included support for the developmental needs of children birth to five.

PROPOSED STATE BUDGET CHANGES

-  Rate increases for child care were proposed but did not occur.

POLICY UPDATES

-  **Child Care Licensing:** Child care licensing revisions have been approved by the Oklahoma Department of Human Services and will move forward for legislative approval next legislative session.
-  **Early Childhood Advisory Council:** HB 1699 passed to re-create the Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness Board.
-  **Home Visiting:** Pending legislation to address home visitation.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Oregon

BIRTH TO FIVE POLICY PRIORITIES

2013 Agenda

- Seed connections between early learning and early elementary, through our Early Works demonstration sites, state policy agenda and work with superintendents.
- Support development of key state early childhood infrastructure, including new Early Learning Division and the creation of regional Early Learning Hubs.
- Create a funding stream in 2015 for a mixed-delivery preschool program.
- Monitor the implementation of the Early Learning Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation Fund to ensure that it leads to increased collaboration between schools and early childhood service providers.

Ideas or Topics in Development

- Develop standards and supports that will enable the development of a mixed-delivery preschool system in Oregon.
- Work with the Confederation of Oregon School Administrators (COSA) to organize superintendents who are interested in increasing state investments in early learning and increasing the capacity of schools to engage with early childhood.

RECENT STATE BUDGET CHANGES



The 2013 Oregon legislative session, responsible for setting the 2013-15 biennium budget, came to a close on July 8th. As with the last legislative session, support for early childhood remains extremely high:

- \$6 million increase for Oregon Head Start Prekindergarten.
- More than \$17 million increase for Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education.
- Employment Related Day Care funding was increased to support a maximum caseload of 9,000 – 500 more children than the previous biennium.
- Reimbursement rates for licensed providers were raised to 75% of the 2012 Market Rate Survey.
- \$4 million for a new Early Learning Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation Fund (see below), as well as creating a new Early Reading Grants program.
- \$4 million to launch a first cohort of regional Early Learning Hubs.

POLICY UPDATES



Linkages between Early Learning and K-12: HB 2013 creates the Early Learning Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation Fund to build local connections between early childhood programs and schools.



Regional Hubs: HB 2013 also launches the regional Early Learning Hubs through which communities will coordinate and tailor early learning services to meet the needs of children and families. The RFA for the Hubs will be released in August, and the first 7 of these 16 regional entities will be selected in the fall, with the additional 9 created the following year.



Governance: HB 3234 creates a new Early Learning Division within the Department of Education, consolidating the administration of key early childhood programs such as Oregon Head Start Prekindergarten, Healthy Start, and child-care licensing under a new Office of Child Care. The consolidation of these programs within the Dept. of Education is already underway. The new Division will be the lead agency for CCDF, but ERDC, the state's child care subsidy program, will continue to be administered by the Dept. of Human Services.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Washington

BIRTH TO FIVE POLICY PRIORITIES

2013 Agenda

- In 2010, the Washington State legislature made a commitment to make Washington's Pre-K program, the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP), available to all eligible children by 2018. Our goal is to keep that commitment by expanding access to ECEAP and increasing the per child rate to preserve program quality.

Ideas or Topics in Development

- ECEAP as an entitlement by 2018, including implementation of a mixed delivery system.
- Early learning as a strategy for closing the opportunity and achievement gap.
- Increasing child care subsidy base rates and implementing a system of tiered reimbursement.
- Implementation of Early Start, an integrated high-quality continuum of early learning programs for children birth-to-five years of age, including ECEAP, child care, home visiting, Early Achievers (QRIS) and parent education/support programs.
- Expansion of Early Achievers.
- Expansion of WaKIDS (Washington Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills).
- Implementing recommendations from the State-Local Coordination Project, including changes to WA's Early Learning Advisory Council.

RECENT STATE BUDGET CHANGES



\$22.391 million increase to expand access to the ECEAP, the Pre-K program by providing 350 new slots in the 2013-14 school year at \$6,812 per slot; 1,350 new slots in the 2014-15 school year at \$7,500 per slot; rate increase to \$7,500 for existing slots in the 2014-15 school year; and additional oversight by the Department of Early Learning.



\$2.256 million to maintain 165 ECEAP slots funded with CCDF in the previous biennium.



\$14.6 million increase to the base rate for child care subsidies by 2% and to provide a 2% enhancement to providers achieving level 2 or above in Early Achievers.



\$1.6 million in additional funds for WaKIDS (Washington Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills) for 2013-2015 biennium.



\$1 million for expansion of home visiting services.



\$50k to implement child care reform legislation ([SB 5595](#)) to make the child care system easier to navigate for families and early learning providers. It also establishes a legislative planning group to consider long-term improvements to the child care system.

POLICY UPDATES



Preschool Mixed Delivery: The Department of Early Learning is required to support a mixed delivery system, including licensed child care centers and family child care providers, when reviewing applications for state funding for ECEAP.

P **Early Start** is intended to be established as an integrated high-quality continuum of early learning for children birth-to-five years of age that includes, but is not limited to, home visiting and parent education and support programs, the Early Achievers (QRIS), integrated, full-day and part-day high quality early learning programs, and high quality preschool for children whose family income is at or below 110% FPL.

P **Legislative Task Force** is being formed to make recommendations on long-term improvements to the child care system, including implementation of a mixed delivery system, implementation of tiered reimbursement, and opportunities for increased funding for early learning.

P **Child Care Eligibility and Redetermination:** Child care subsidy eligibility restored to 200% FPL and 12-month reauthorization periods established.

P **Removed Child Support Requirement:** Child support enforcement requirement removed as barrier to accessing child care.

P **Child Care Reform:** Legislation passed that requires the Departments of Early Learning (DEL) and Social and Health Services (DSHS) to work more intensively on identifying reforms for several key administrative policy and procedural practices for the state child care subsidy program, to develop recommendations that address several improvements focused on reducing negative implications for participating families, ways to better align funding and provide more consistent, reliable communication to families and providers. Specific address of the following component's is required:

- Provide professionalism training to its employees when providing services to families applying for or receiving Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) benefits.
- Design a subsidy system that accounts for small fluctuations in family circumstances.
- Create new authorization categories so that minor changes in consumer work schedules don't require changes in authorization.
- Establish rules to specify that parents who receive WCCC and participate in 110 or more hours of approved work or related activities are eligible for full-time child care services.
- Simplify and clarify the requirement to count child support as income.

P **Kindergarten Entry Assessment:** Implementation of a 3-day waiver for teachers implementing WaKIDS to meeting with families before the start of the school year.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Wisconsin

BIRTH TO FIVE POLICY PRIORITIES

2013 Agenda

- Substantially improve child care payment rates, which have been frozen for 7 years.
- Sustain and improve YoungStar (QRIS) with an improved tiered reimbursement system.
- Build a statewide system for early learning and development, with strong standards, investment in quality improvement, developing and sustaining a competent workforce, engaging and supporting families, and a data system to measure progress.
- Strengthen family engagement, particularly with infants and toddlers.
- Support effective use of Race to the Top funds.

Ideas or Topics in Development

- Birth to 8 framework, building on Read to Lead initiative.
- Improve continuity of services for children in early care and education.

RECENT STATE BUDGET CHANGES

-  Child care subsidy budget was cut by \$31 million over 2 years, 5-6% per year.
-  Child care's 7-years regulatory rate freeze ended, but rate increase in 2014 is less than 1%.
-  Increase incentive payments for 4-star child care programs in the YoungStar QRIS program from 5% to 10%.
-  \$2.3 million to develop an electronic benefit transfer system for child care payments.

POLICY UPDATES

-  **Strengthening QRIS:** Implementing Race to the Top funding, with an emphasis on strengthening the YoungStar QRIS program and building a longitudinal data system.
-  **Public-Private Partnerships:** The State and Celebrate Children Foundation completed public-private partnership grants to 16 local early childhood coalitions with ARRA funds. Another \$300,000 is available from the Race to the Top grant.
-  **Literacy Screening:** New literacy screening required for all public school and charter school students in 4K, 5K, first, and second grade to be phased in by 2015.
-  **Race to the Top:** Wisconsin is applying for an additional \$11 million in Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge funds as a supplement to round 2 funding of \$22.7 million.
-  **Disability services:** We expect one outcome of Race to the Top will be better coordination with Birth to 3 intervention services (IDEA, Part C), hopefully with positive impact on Medicaid payments for B-3, including Mental Health Interventions for young children in the home.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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