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Highlights

ESSA Helps States Improve and Expand Early Childhood Education Programs

From the First Five Years Fund: President Obama signed the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA), reauthorizing the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act* (ESEA) for the first time since 2001. It includes historic support to states and communities for early childhood education, including the establishment of a \$250 million Preschool Development Grant program to support states that are leaders in early childhood education. The Preschool Development Grants program's comprehensive needs assessment and focus on promoting close collaboration within communities, including leveraging existing State Advisory Councils on Early Childhood Education and Care, will ensure existing federal, state and local resources are used effectively to promote quality and parental choice. Coupled with the program's other core provisions, including encouraging thoughtful strategic planning and promoting sharing of best practices among early childhood education program providers, will make a positive difference for the nation's youngest learners and their families.

- Read statements from [First Five Years Fund](#) (FFYF), [Center for Law and Social and Social Policy](#) (CLASP), and [EdSource](#) on the new PDG program.
- Sen. Patty Murray, ranking member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee released a statement on ESSA's provisions that will improve and expand access to early learning programs [here](#).
- *Education Week* summarizes key aspects of the new law [here](#).
- The White House released a report praising the passage of ESSA and reflecting on the progress made in elementary and secondary education during President Obama's time in office. Read more [here](#).
- US Secretary of Education Arne Duncan told reporters that the department will send out ESSA guidance to states before the end of the year. Read more [here](#).

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Federal Updates

Appropriations

President Obama signed the Omnibus FY2016 Appropriations Bill which includes significant increases to early education programs. It includes an increase of \$326 million for the Child Care Development Block Grant, maintaining a set-aside of \$127 million for infants and toddlers. The bill also features a \$570 million increase for Head Start, which includes a \$135 million increase for Early Head Start, EHS-Child Care partnerships and conversions from Head Start to Early Head Start. The Preschool Development Grants will continue at \$250 million through the Department of Education. The bill makes permanent the refundable tax credits for low-income families through the Child Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit, as well as making permanent a partially refundable tax credit for college tuition expenses. Read more [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

Child Care and Development Block

- The Office of Child Care, Administration for Children and Families (ACF) announced the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) addressing the CCDBG Act of 2014. The proposed rules will be officially published with a 60-day comment period, starting December 24. Read the NPRM [here](#). Additional resources will be added to the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Reauthorization web page, including a list of areas in which ACF is specifically seeking comment. Read more [here](#).
 - As states prepare to submit the FY2016-18 Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) state plans to the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) in March 2016, they must comply with the requirement of at least one public hearing on the state plan. ACF has been collecting information on the dates and locations of those hearings already planned [here](#).
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Family Engagement

The US Departments of Health and Human Services and Education released a draft policy statement "Draft Policy Statement on Family Engagement: From the Early Years to the Early Grades," that provides recommendations on "systematically engaging families in their children's development, learning and wellness, across early childhood and elementary education settings." Comment deadline extended to January 4, 2016. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

Child Nutrition

The White House Council of Economic Advisers (CEA) released "Long-Term Benefits of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program," that finds the program is "highly effective at reducing food insecurity—the government's measure for whether households lack the resources for consistent and dependable access to food." Included in the report is a review of the growing body of research on the link between health and academic performance with children who receive food assistance. Read more [here](#). Read a blog by Jason Furman, Cecilia Muñoz, and Sandra Black [here](#) and the Food Research and Action Center's (FRAC) statement [here](#).

Head Start

Sen. Mike Lee and Rep. Matt Salmon introduced the Head Start Improvement Act in the Senate and House that would create a block grant of the program's current \$8.6 billion funding. Read the accompanying op-ed in *The Washington Examiner* [here](#).

Child Health Insurance

Families and small businesses interested in signing up for individual and small group coverage should do so through [Healthcare.gov](#) (CuidadDeSalu.gov) or individual state Marketplaces before open enrollment ends on January 31, 2016. Insurance purchased through the marketplaces meets the minimum essential coverage required by the individual mandate and may be more affordable through tax credits. Outside of open enrollment,

individuals and families may still qualify for coverage under certain life events or through Medicaid and should continue to visit the site for more information about those opportunities. More information at Healthcare.gov here. The Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center (ECLKC) and the ACF Early Childhood Development Affordable Care Act pages have resources to share with programs and families. Learn more [here](#) and [here](#).

Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships (EHS-CC)

The National Center on Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships (NCEHS-CCP) released a collection of resources related to the grant program and the partnerships it creates. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

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Policy Trends and Analysis

Child Care

- The Ounce of Prevention Fund National Policy Team published "The Importance of Continuity of Care: Policies and Practices in Early Childhood Systems and Programs," a policy brief that provides a review of the research that articulates the importance of continuity of care for young children and families. Additionally, it highlights opportunities to support policies and programming that help young children develop secure relationships, including in the context of state Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) plans. Read more [here](#).
 - Child Care Aware released the "Parents and High Cost of Child Care: 2015 Report" that includes an interactive map to quickly access a variety of cost data for each state. The report also examines five of the country's largest metropolitan areas to demonstrate how lower priced-care in rural areas brings down state averages. Read more [here](#).
 - The Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (OPRE), Administration for Children and Families updated and released "The CCDF Policies Database Book of Tables: Key Cross-State Variations in CCDF Policies as of October 1, 2014." Policy variation highlights include eligibility requirements and terms of authorization and redetermination. Read more [here](#).
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Birth-3rd Grade

- New America's Early & Elementary Education team produced the new report "From Crawling to Walking: Ranking States on Birth- 3rd Grade Policies that Support Strong Readers," that measures states on a broad set of policy indicators that can help ensure children are on track to read on grade level by the end of third grade. New America's data visualization and policy analysis tool, Atlas, includes complementary interactive maps. Read the report [here](#) and visit Atlas [here](#).
 - Elliot Regenstein, from The Ounce of Prevention Fund, responded to New America's report, praising the report overall but taking issue with one of the metrics: including pre-k in the state's school funding formula. Read more [here](#).
 - New America released the second of its companion papers that analyzes more in depth the interaction of state and local policy in Massachusetts, called "Starting Young." Read [here](#). The first paper, "Building Strong Readers in Minnesota" is located [here](#).
 - New America's Abbie Lieberman analyzed data from the report for another companion piece on workforce in "Strengthening the Early Education Workforce: A Look at the Leading States." Read more [here](#).
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Immigration

Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) published a brief based on an April 2015 roundtable with 39 leading experts from the early education, workforce development, postsecondary education, and immigration policy and practice fields, "Two-Generational Strategies to Improve Immigrant Family and Child Outcomes." Read more [here](#).

Professional Development

The BUILD Initiative and the Center for Enhancing Early Learning Outcomes (CEELO) produced "Sharpening the Focus: State Policy to Promote Effective Teaching that Improves Learning," as a part of the organizations' joint effort working with state leaders on promoting effective early childhood teaching. Read more [here](#).

Paid Leave

"Administering Paid Family and Medical Leave: Learning from International and Domestic Examples," is the Center for American Progress' new report that outlines the general structure of three broad types of paid leave structures and the implication for the economy and families. Read more [here](#).

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New Research

Early Childhood Education

Nobel Prize economist James Heckman published a new working paper "Early Childhood Education," that reviews the recent research on the effectiveness of early childhood education in an attempt to provide clarity. Read more [here](#).

Coaching

Child Care & Early Education Research Connections published a new topic of interest research review, "Off-Site Coaching in Early Childhood Center-Based Settings," as an extension of the Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (OPRE), Administration for Children and Families (ACF) project examining the role of technology in early childhood practice of coaching. Read more [here](#).

Home Visiting

The Home Visiting Evidence of Effectiveness (HomVEE), Administration for Children and Families announced a Call for Studies on its next comprehensive review of the evidence base for home visiting program models with an emphasis on studies not previously reviewed by the HomVEE team. Read more [here](#).

Child Health

Researchers from the PolicyLab at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) published a study in JAMA Pediatrics that finds children in low-income families experience greater access to preventative care with Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) health insurance coverage as compared to children with private insurance. Read more [here](#).

Transitional Kindergarten

The American Institutes for Research (AIR) published "Impact of California's Transitional Kindergarten Program, 2013-14," that studies the impact of transitional kindergarten on students' readiness in language, literacy, mathematics, executive functioning and social-emotional skills. It found improvements in pre-literacy, literacy, mathematical knowledge and

problem-solving skills, but did not find a detectable impact on social-emotional skills. Read more [here](#).

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Upcoming Events

January 14, 2016

The Office of Head Start & Office of Child Care are rescheduling their webcast on the revised "State Early Childhood Education Systems and the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework."

[Register Here](#)>

January 29, 2016

The Child Trauma Research Program will celebrate its 20th anniversary at the Attachment and Trauma in Early Childhood: Embracing the Family in Clinical Practice, Research, and Public Policy conference in San Francisco.

[Learn More](#)>

July 11-13, 2016

The Administration for Children and Families presents the National Research Conference on Early Childhood (NRCEC - formally known as Head Start's National Research Conference) in Washington, DC.

[Learn More](#)>



News and Resources

School Boards

The Ounce of Prevention Fund and the Illinois Association of School Boards co-published "Early Learning User's Guide for Illinois School Boards," a guide to help school board members understand why early learning is important and how they can be an effective part of their local early learning community. Read the guide [here](#) and an executive summary [here](#).

Infant-Toddler

ZERO TO THREE's Policy Center has released "Infants and Toddlers in the Policy Picture: A Self-Assessment Toolkit for States." This toolkit is intended to help state policy leaders and advocates assess the current status of services for infants, toddlers and their families and set priorities for improvement. This toolkit is a revised version of a previous ZTT self-assessment tool. Read more [here](#).

Professional Development

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) shared new research highlighting widespread support for making investment in the early childhood education profession a national priority with findings in three areas (1) the image of the

profession; (2) paths to define and grow the profession; and (3) voters' commitment to investing in the profession. Read more [here](#). Read media coverage [here](#).

Early Childhood Education

- The National Center for Children in Poverty updated its Early Childhood State Policy Profiles. Read more [here](#).
- The Center on Enhancing Early Learning Outcomes (CEELO) released "Measuring Child Outcomes in the Early Years," a new policy brief to inform decision-making regarding the assessment of young children's learning, development, and wellbeing. Read more [here](#).
- The Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) published a report with a series of recommendations on improving early education including expansion of access and improving the quality. Read more [here](#).
- A recent Freakonomics Radio podcast episode where journalist Stephen J. Dubner interviews UChicago economist Steve Levitt is called "Does Early Education Come Way Too Late?" and questions whether the education reform zeal has lost sight of where learning begins-at home. Listen [here](#).

Child Care

- J.B. Wogan writes for Governing magazine about the child care assistance program and the changes in reauthorization that allow states to move away from reporting requirements that present barriers for low-wage parents in the workplace. Read more [here](#).
- Equal Voice News interviewed mothers about their hopes for child care reforms and highlights the reforms taking place through the CCDBG reauthorization. Read more [here](#).

Head Start

The Office of Head Start has now made available audio and slides from a webinar this summer regarding the newly revised "Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework: Ages Birth to Five, replacing the framework created in 2010 that focused only on 3 to 5-year-olds." Watch [here](#).

Suspension and Expulsion

- Melinda D. Anderson writes for The Atlantic about the large number of preschoolers being suspended, especially young children of color. Read more [here](#).
- The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) hosted a webinar about reducing early childhood expulsions that is available [here](#). Read an accompanying blog post [here](#).

Child Nutrition

- The American Academy of Pediatrics is recommending for the first time that pediatricians screen all children for food insecurity and released a new policy statement, "Promoting Food Security for all Children." Read more [here](#) and coverage of the statement [here](#).
- FRAC used recently released updated Census data from the US Department of Agriculture to create maps for the use of qualifying Summer Nutrition Programs and child care homes for the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). See the mappers [here](#) and [here](#).
- FRAC and Children's Healthwatch released the eighth issue of the Food Insecurity and Hunger in the U.S.: New Research with an in focus called Reflections on the History, Development, and Current Use of the Food Security Module. Read more [here](#).

Language and Literacy

The Preschool Development Grant Technical Assistance Program created a free series of fourteen modules designed for professionals who are working to support the language and literacy development of young children, birth to five. Learn more [here](#).

Home Visiting

The Home Visiting Evidence of Effectiveness (HomVEE), Administration for Children and Families released the results of its 2015 review and added four new models and updated another in its list of effective home visiting models. Read more [here](#).

Child Welfare

The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) created "Child Welfare Financing 101" an interactive graphic of the complicated funding streams used on child welfare services in all 50 states. See [here](#).

Tax Credits

- Children's Healthwatch created a policy action brief on the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the Child Tax Credit (CTC) in "The EITC and CTC: Prescriptions for Healthy Families," explaining their importance and the need to continue them past the current expiration of 2017. Read more [here](#).
- CLASP also called for the extension of the EITC and CTC past 2017 and the need for Congress to include it any omnibus decision made before the end of the year. Read more [here](#).

Trauma and Terrorism

The Society for Research in Child Development published a new social policy report on the effects of terrorism on children's development. Read more [here](#).

Pay for Success (PFS)

NCSL began tracking the legislative trend of PFS or social impact bond at the state level in its PFS webpage and map. Read more [here](#).

2016 Presidential Election

- TIME interviews Center for American Progress president Neera Tanden about the recently launched CAP campaign #WithinReach and the possibility that child care will be a 2016 campaign issue. Read more [here](#). Bloomberg Politics also writes about the presence of the child care issue on the campaign trail with Sen. Marco Rubio and former Secretary Hillary Clinton. Read more [here](#). The Washington Post and The Huffington Post cover Donald Trump's comments that companies could "very easily" offer child care. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).
- The President of Save the Children Action Network, Mark Shriver, published an article on Huffington Post about encouraging presidential candidates to invest in children. Read more [here](#).
- Matthew Melmed, Executive Director of ZERO TO THREE, published in Huffington Post ten questions for presidential candidates related to young children. Read more [here](#).

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News From The States

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Arizona

- Nine Valley nonprofits in Arizona teamed up to remind Arizonians about the state charitable tax credits that allow taxpayers to receive a dollar-for-dollar credit (up to a certain amount) for donations to qualifying organizations. The Arizona Tax Credit Team includes Arizona Community Foundation, Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation, Arizona Tuition Connection, Balsz School District, Educare Arizona, New Way Academy, Southwest Human Development, Voices for CASA Children, and Washington Elementary School District. Read more [here](#).
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California

- EdSource profiles the challenge of preparing early learning staff to teach California's young bilingual children in Head Start and the California State Preschool Program in their native languages while learning English, a goal of the state's preschool standards, since teachers are not required to be bilingual. Read more [here](#).
 - Charles Taylor Kerchner writes for *Education Week* about the passing of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act reauthorization legislation--Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)--and how it reinforces some of the education decisions California had been making under Gov. Jerry Brown. For example the Department of Education can no longer mandate states to evaluate teachers through test scores, a link California refused to make and was penalized for. Read more [here](#).
 - KidsData and the California Child Care Resource & Referral Network released the 2015 California Child Care Portfolio, the 10th biennial report on the topic that highlights that there are only licensed child care spots available for 25 percent of children 12 or younger with working parents. Read the report [here](#) and Education Week's media coverage [here](#).
 - Jill Tucker for the *San Francisco Chronicle* profiles a mobile preschool in East Oakland, designed to meet the demand for services in an area light on supply. Read more [here](#).
 - The *Los Angeles Times* analyzes the state's high poverty rate as compared to other states despite its low unemployment rate in a number of infographics [here](#).
 - The San Francisco Human Services Agency is the first in the nation to provide families receiving TANF benefits (through the CalWORKS program) with free diapers, building off the success of diaper banks across the country. The diapers are available through its network of family resource centers and the program is designed in part to reach CalWORKS-eligible families who are not currently enrolled. Read more [here](#).
 - The State Assembly's Education Committee and Budget Subcommittee held a joint hearing on the implementation of Transitional Kindergarten in which early childhood advocates highlighted discrepancies in local enrollment practices. Read more [here](#).
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Colorado

- The State Board of Education delayed its decision on a state system for school readiness evaluations of kindergarten until January. Read more [here](#).
- Megan Verlee of *Colorado Public Radio* discussed the "cliff effect" of benefits programs and the state's experiment smoothing out this cliff in the child care assistance program in ten counties. Read more [here](#).

- In northwest Denver, the nonprofit Growing Home has been leading "Blocks of Hope," an initiative modeled on the Harlem Children's Zone in New York City. Read more [here](#) in *Chalkbeat*.
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Florida

- Gov. Rick Scott proposed a \$51.7 million increase in funding for early education for a total of \$1.1 billion for the Office of Early Learning. Read more [here](#).
 - Gov. Scott also proposed increasing funding to the Department of Children and Families by \$107 million to a total of \$3 billion with the goal of better coordinating mental healthcare services across the state. Read more [here](#).
 - Starting in the 2015-16 program year, the state's Voluntary Pre-K Program (VPK) will require the Teaching Strategies GOLD Child Assessments alongside the current pre- and post-assessment, VPK Assessment. *ABC News* profiled a preschool program that wishes to opt-out from the new requirements, risking its state funding for the program. Read more [here](#).
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Georgia

- Gov. Nathan Deal's Education Reform Commission announced its recommendations and with regard to early childhood, the commission recommended placing pre-k teachers on a pay scale like K-12 teachers. Read the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* summary [here](#).
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Illinois

- Illinois legislative leaders met at the beginning of December reporting minor progress as the state entered into the sixth month of operating without a budget. Read more [here](#).
 - Over 88 percent of all Chicago Teachers Union members voted to support a strike should ongoing contract negotiations fail. Read more [here](#).
 - The Chicago Children's Museum will begin offering reduced admission for families eligible for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formally known as food stamps) and will be the first museum in the state to follow this trend of museums across the country. Read more [here](#).
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Indiana

- Recently released data from the first round of applications for Indiana's preschool pilot program show that the demand for preschool scholarships greatly exceeds the supply. In Marion County, one of the five county sites, funding only reached 30 percent of the 5,000 applicants and the county was already at an advantage over others because of additional \$4.2 million in funding from Indianapolis. The state budget currently appropriates \$10 million per year for the program and pulled the state application for preschool development grant at the 11th hour, although discussions have begun around proposing an increase in the 2017 legislative cycle. Read

more about the data [here](#) and [here](#). US Senator Joe Donnelly released a statement [here](#).

- The *Indianapolis Star* profiled the work of Early Learning Indiana with regard to child care provision and early childhood education advocacy as part of its Our Children Initiative. Read more [here](#).

Kansas

- The President and CEO of Kansas Action for Children, Shannon Cotsoradis, is disputing Gov. Sam Brownback's administration claim that the recent \$9 million budget adjustment from the Children's Initiative Fund to the general fund will not impact the 20 children's programs. The administration claims it is a one-time adjustment and grantees have sufficient funds moving forward, but Kansas Action for Children argues that the adjustment was possible because grantees were in the middle of a grant cycle transition from calendar to fiscal years and the \$9 million was already appropriated to these programs and not available for the adjustment. Read more [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).
- The Kansas City's Early Learning Commission sent a delegation to Denver to learn about the city's universal preschool program. Read more [here](#).

Louisiana

- *Louisiana Public Broadcasting* produced "Funding the Future: Early Childhood Opportunities" about the link between early childhood programs and improvements in the state's education outcomes, workforce, and economics. Watch [here](#).

Maine

- The vice chair on the board of the Maine Children's Alliance, Margaret Leitch Copeland, published an op-ed in the *Bangor Daily News* praising Maine's congressional delegation for playing a critical role in the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) reauthorization in 2014 and the need for them to unite once again to support early childhood funding in the final budget negotiations given that many of the positive reforms in CCDBG come without additional money to implement them. Read more [here](#).
- Ben Gilman of the Maine State Chamber of Commerce wrote about the important and growing business support for early childhood programs and his attendance at the 2015 ReadyNation Global Business Summit in *The Portland Press Herald*. Read more [here](#).
- Susan Carroll, an instructor of ECE providers, seconded Ben Gilman's op-ed and added the need for supporting early learning workforce in order to support investments in high-quality programs themselves in her op-ed in *The Portland Press Herald*. Read more [here](#).

Michigan

- *WWJ Newsradio 950* interviewed the President and CEO of Goodwill Industries, Kenneth Baur, and former state lawmaker and current Michigan League for Public Policy president and CEO, Gilda Jacobs, as part of its seventh live monthly broadcast on early childhood development. Learn more [here](#).
 - Michigan's House Rep. Charles Brunner introduced HB 4987 that calls for full-day, mandatory kindergarten for 5-year-olds. Kindergarten is currently optional in 34 states. [Read more here](#).
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Nebraska

- The Health and Human Services Committee heard testimony from participants of several social welfare programs about the struggles of living right at or above the poverty line and the decisions that play out as they lose eligibility from the difference of a few extra work hours. Read more [here](#).
 - The US Department of Health and Human Services awarded a University of Nebraska-Lincoln team a \$2.5 million grant to study early childhood development issues. Read more [here](#).
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New Mexico

- *Albuquerque Journal's* UpFront columnist highlighted the pending results of the Rand Corp.'s five year evaluation of the home visiting programs funded by United Way of Santa Fe County. Read more [here](#).
 - A coalition of 40 groups, including New Mexico Voices for Children, and state Democrats are pushing for legislation that would use part of the state's \$15 billion Land Grant Permanent School Fund to expand early childhood education. Read more [here](#).
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New York

- A group of New York City pre-K providers and advocacy organizations sent a letter to Mayor de Blasio asking him to address the pay disparity between pre-k and child teachers at community-based organizations compared with their counterparts at Department of Education schools. Read more [here](#).
 - Almost half (47 percent) of New York City's preschoolers with disabilities are learning in isolated classrooms. Given the growing evidence of benefits from inclusion, state education officials are working on plans to improve special education across the state and New York City says it is creating more inclusive classrooms through its pre-k expansion. Read more [here](#).
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Oklahoma

- The Southern Regional Education Board's Early Childhood Commission published a report about necessary improvements to early childhood programs in the southern states that mentions the Oklahoma's preschool program as an example for others. Read more [here](#). New America's "From Crawling to Walking: Ranking States on Birth-3rd Grade Policies that Build

Strong Readers" also highlighted Oklahoma and ranked it second for implementing a comprehensive system. Read more [here](#).

- Oklahoma County Sheriff John Whetsel published an op-ed in *NewsOK* about the importance of early childhood education. Read more [here](#).
- Business and civic leaders from OGE Energy Corp and the Potts Family Foundation published an op-ed in *NewsOk* about the link between early childhood education and workforce and economic development. Read more [here](#).

Oregon

- *Oregon Public Radio* highlights a recent New America report that applauds the David Douglas School District's P-3 language instruction work. Read more [here](#).
- Amy Wang writes for the *Oregonian* about the results from the Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge grant progress report that shows Oregon is behind in getting 80 percent of state-funded preschool and Head Start providers to participate in Oregon's QRIS. Read more [here](#).

Washington

- Parents lobbied Gov. Jay Inslee's office with their young children with the goal of increasing funding for preschool. Read more [here](#).
- Seattle's education and early learning department announced that the city's four-year program for a high-quality, subsidized preschool program achieved its first year goals with respect to enrollment, number of classrooms, and student racial and income diversity. Read more [here](#).

Washington, DC

- Ben Champa highlights the potential impact of waitlists on the DC public school system as a whole for Greater Great Washington, claiming that families may leave for charter and other non-DCPS schools to meet their preschool needs and then stay with those systems. Read more [here](#).

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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.

The National Policy Digest is a bi-monthly newsletter that shares up-to-date and noteworthy developments in state and federal early childhood news, policy and funding changes, research, policy trends and analyses, upcoming events, etc. culled from diverse sources in the field. To subscribe, please contact Sharrell Hibbler (shibbler@theounce.org)



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