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Thank you for allowing us to share local, state and federal early childhood policy news with you on a regular basis! As a valued recipient of the [Ounce Policy Digest](#) we are seeking your feedback on the current content, structure and frequency of the digest in this brief 5 minute [survey](#).

Highlights

Poll Indicates Overwhelming Support for Access to Quality ECE

First Five Years Fund's (FFYF) annual national poll shows that there is overwhelming support-with little opposition-for a federal plan that helps states and local communities provide better access to quality early childhood education. Nearly three quarters of the electorate support this plan: 73% favor and only 24% oppose. 54% of Republicans, 70% of Independents, 91% of Democrats voice support. A majority of key swing voter groups also favor investing more in early childhood education from birth to age five. Read more about the poll's findings at www.ffyf.org/2016-poll.

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Federal Updates

Appropriations

The House Appropriations Committee approved a \$161.6 billion spending bill for fiscal year FY2017. The bill provides increases in funding for early learning programs, including Head Start and Child Care and Development Block Grants (CCDBG), while also sustaining funding for Preschool Development Grants. Read more in the [statement](#) from the First Five Years Fund.

Child Care

The Office of Child Care posted PDF copies of all approved fiscal year 2016-2018 Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Plans, along with the approval letters on its [website](#).

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

The Collaborative for Student Success created UnderstandingESSA.org that lists public hearings, listening tours, state committee meetings and informational state websites related to the implementation of ESSA.

Child Welfare

The House of Representatives passed the [Family First Prevention Services Act of 2016 \(H.R. 5456\)](#) that will fund substance abuse and mental health treatment starting in 2020 for families in the child welfare system.

Mental Health

The House of Representatives passed almost unanimously passed [The Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act](#) that includes a provision to invest in infant and early childhood mental health and is similar to legislation that was approved by the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee in March.

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Policy Trends & Analysis

Systems Building

- The Administration for Children and Families' (ACF) State Capacity Building Center released a new, expanded version of its ["Early Childhood Systems Building Guide."](#)
 - ["The Road to High-Quality Early Learning: Lessons from the States"](#) by the Learning Policy Institute profiles efforts in Michigan, West Virginia, Washington and North Carolina in building high-quality early education systems.
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Head Start and Early Head Start

The Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) published new [state fact sheets](#) using Program Information Report (PIR) to highlight data on participating children, families, and staff for the 2014 school year.

K-3 Quality

The Education Commission of the States produced [and its "Companion Report"](#) about research findings in key K-3 policy areas.

Maternal Depression

CLASP and Georgetown's Center on Children and Families (CCF) co-published ["Medicaid Expansion Promotes Children's Development and Family Success by Treating Maternal Depression."](#)

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New Research

Parents

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine released "[Parenting Matters: Supporting Parents of Children Ages 0-8](#)" that reviews research and presents effective parenting practices.

Career Pathways

The U.S. Departments of Education and Health and Human Services released "[Early Learning Career Pathways Initiative: Credentialing in the Early Care and Education Field.](#)" that provides a national landscape of states' requirements, introduces a framework, and highlights five states. Going along with this new report is the Administration for Children and Families new [policy statement](#) on career pathways.

Attendance

The Urban Institute released two research reports looking at the issue of attendance in the early grades: "[Improving Prekindergarten Attendance: School-Level Strategies for Messaging, Engaging Parents, and Responding to Absences in Four DC Public Schools](#)" and "[Does Attendance in Early Education Predict Attendance in Elementary School? An Analysis of DCPS's Early Education Program.](#)"

Social Emotional Development

Duke researchers published a study that looks at the association between children with attention problems in the early grades and likelihood of graduation from high school reports [The Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#).

Kindergarten Readiness

The Case Western Reserve University's Center on Urban Poverty and Community Development released "[Leveraging Integrated Data Systems to Examine the Effect of Housing and Neighborhood Conditions on Kindergarten Readiness.](#)" Read more in [The Atlantic](#).

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Upcoming Events

November 15–16, 2016

The Ounce of Prevention Fund is hosting the [Sixth National Summit on Quality in Home Visiting Programs](#) in Washington D.C.

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News and Resources

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

Elliot Regenstein of The Ounce of Prevention Fund published an [article](#) on the Fordham Institute's "Flypaper" blog about the how proposed ESSA regulations from the US Department of Education "shortchange early learning and violate the law's intention."

High-Quality Learning

The Hechinger Report built an [interactive map](#) using the National Institute for Early Education Research data that shows the intersection of preschool access and quality reports *Education Week's Lillian Mongeau*.

Student Parents

Jamie Merisotis, president of Lumina Foundation, and Anne-Marie Slaughter, president of New America, co-authored an op-ed in [The New York Times](#) about the realities of student parents and proposals to support them with child care and transportation.

Homelessness

- Acting Assistant Secretary of the Administration for Children and Families, Mark Greenberg, authored a [blog post](#) about the actions ACF has been taking to support efforts to end child, youth and family homelessness.
 - Children's Health Watch published "[Compounding Stress: The Timing and Duration Effects of Homelessness on Children's Health.](#)"
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News From The States

[CA](#) | [CO](#) | [IL](#) | [IN](#) | [LA](#) | [ME](#) | [MA](#) | [MI](#) | [NC](#) | [OK](#) | [TX](#) | [WA](#) |

California

- At the end of June, Gov. Brown signed California's 2016-17 state budget which includes a significant multiyear investment in the state's early learning system. It will begin with an additional \$147 million that is expected to grow to more than \$500 million in 2019-20. Investment areas include raising reimbursement rates, expanding access to full-day state preschool and funding an early childhood apprenticeship program at the Los Angeles Trade-Tech Community College. These investments come on the heels of the governor's original proposal to block grant many of the early childhood funding streams and eliminate the Transitional Kindergarten (TK) program. Read more from [Early Edge, School Services of California memo](#), the [Monterey Herald](#) and the Child Care Resource and Referral Network op-ed in [The Sacramento Bee](#).
 - American Institutes for Research (AIR) published its fifth report from its study of California's Transitional Kindergarten (TK) program with encouraging results reports [Education Week](#).
 - *New America's* [Natalie Orenstein](#) profiles programs in California that are working to recruit and train a multicultural and diverse workforce.
 - The UCLA Center for Health Policy Research published a [brief](#) that shows preventative dental visits for young infants and children have tripled through the support of UCLA-First 5 LA 21st Century Dental Homes Project.
 - The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) [announced](#) that the California Home Visiting Program (CHVP) celebrate its 100,000th home visit.
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Colorado

- Advocates in Colorado reflected upon policy wins during the recent legislative session on the Alliance for [Early Success blog](#). Items included bills that exempt teen parents and domestic violence survivors from the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP) child support enforcement condition, allow for more counties to participate in the CCCAP Cliff Effect Pilot Program, increase the appropriation for and number of Early Childhood Mental Health Intervention Specialists, and align CCAP with the 12 month eligibility requirement. There were

also a number of budget increases to provide for tiered reimbursement and increase nurse home visiting.

Illinois

- Gov. Rauner signed the legislature's bipartisan [budget deal](#) that includes full FY2017 funding for education and a portion of FY2016 and FY2017 funding for human services programs that have been without state funding since the impasse started. This agreement included a significant \$79 million increase to the Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG), restoring the ECBG to just over its historically high funding level in FY2009. Services such as Early Intervention and family child care were not included in the budget, but will continue through court orders and consent decrees.
 - [The Chicago Reader](#) profiles the impact the stopgap has on the state's home visiting programs.
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Indiana

- *The Journal Gazette's* [Niki Kelly](#) highlights the discrepancies between Republican Gov. Mike Pence and Democratic Superintendent Glenda Ritz's plans for expanding the state's pre-k programs.
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Louisiana

- The Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) and the Louisiana Department of Education adopted a [number of changes](#) to Bulletin 140 - Early Ed Accountability System - that build upon the Louisiana Policy Institute for Children report "[Measuring Up: Strengthening Louisiana's Early Childhood Accountability System.](#)"
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Maine

- [The Bangor Daily News](#) Editorial Board responded to Gov. LePage's threats to cease the state's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
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Massachusetts

- Gov. Baker vetoed and trimmed the budget the state legislature passed for a total of \$412 million. Some of the vetoes including \$9 million to child care programs for families on welfare or involved with Department of Children and Families reports [The Boston Globe](#).
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Michigan

- [Bridge Magazine](#) profiles the impact of Michigan's low investment in child care on the state's children.

North Carolina

- The NC Early Childhood Foundation produced a [chart](#) outlining select birth-to-eight budget provisions.

Oklahoma

- The Oklahoma Department of Human Services (DHS) announced that on August 1, it will lift the freeze it placed on child care subsidy enrollment at the beginning of June in response to state budget woes. Read more from the [Oklahoma Policy Institute](#) and [Tulsa World](#)

Texas

- [The Texas Tribune](#) reports that a number of school districts are turning down state grant money for preschool programs as the amount per child was decreased from \$1,500 each year to \$734 over two years, but the number of quality enhancements tied to the funding remain the same.

Washington

- The Seattle Preschool Program (SPP) celebrated its first year in the four-year pilot program reports [The Seattle Medium](#). However, the mayor reports the program will shrink in the coming years as rates to providers increase according to [The Seattle Times](#).

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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 visit our [website](#).



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33 West Monroe Street Suite 2400
Chicago, IL 60603 · 312.922.3863
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