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Highlights

Impact of Pre-k in Georgia

FPG Child Development Institute at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill recently [released a report](#) from the third year of its longitudinal study of the impacts of the Georgia pre-k program that highlighted significant growth by children during their pre-k year across different dimensions of education, such as language and literacy skills, math skills, and behavioral skills. The report was commissioned by the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning. Read more in the [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#).

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Federal Updates

Children First Act

Congress Representatives Joe Crowley and Lois Frankel reintroduced the [Children First Act \(H.R. 3643\)](#) which would expand mandatory funding for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) to families with children under age 4 living at or below 200% of the federal poverty level. Read the [full legislation](#).

Student Parents and Child Care

Members in the House and Senate reintroduced the Child Care Access Means Parents in Schools (CCAMPIS) Reauthorization Act that would increase funding to \$67 million permanently each year for the Child Care Access Means Parents in School program from its current funding of \$15 million. [The program](#) is currently at risk of elimination under the House Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill. Read a [press statement](#) from the bill sponsors for more information.

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Policy Trends & Analysis

Families Experiencing Homelessness

Ounce of Prevention Fund and the US Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families (ACF) released "[Self-Assessment Tool for Early Childhood Programs Serving Families Experiencing Homelessness](#)." The tool is designed for child care, Head Start and Early Head Start and public pre-k programs as a guide for welcoming and supporting families and children experiencing homelessness

into these programs. This tool contains recommendations for making early childhood programs more responsive to the unique needs of infants, toddlers, preschoolers and their families who experience homelessness in five areas: Identification and Support; Removal of Barriers; Responding to Family Needs; Engagement in Strategic Collaboration; and Improving Collection, Reporting and Utilization of Data. The tool includes additional resources to support programs.

Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health

Zero to Three's policy center released its [Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Policy Series](#), composed of publications with the goal of raising awareness for policymakers and administrators all publications included provide an overview, summary and policy recommendations for infant and early childhood mental health.

State Early Childhood Data Systems

Ounce of Prevention Fund published "[An Unofficial Guide to the Why and How of State Early Childhood Data Systems.](#)" as part of its Ounce Policy Conversations series. The unofficial guide is meant to help early childhood policy leaders ensure that their state builds and leverages a unified early childhood data system.

Child Care

The Administration for Children and Families' Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (OPRE) published a brief entitled "[Child Care Subsidies under the CCDF Program: Overview of Policy Differences across States and Territories as of October 1, 2015](#)" which provides a detailed overview of CCDF policy differences across States/Territories in the United States. The brief includes information regarding eligibility, policies for providers, family payments, terms of authorization, family application and redetermination.

Higher Education

The Center for Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) [released a report](#) on state funding cuts and trends in higher education since the 2008 recession. The report finds that states have slashed higher education funding (In 2017, \$9 billion below the level in 2008), and the price of attending public colleges has risen significantly faster than what families can afford. Inside Higher Ed highlights findings from the [report](#).

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

- [Education Week](#) released its report on a survey that was distributed regarding state activity with money from the Every Student Succeeds Act, which is legislation passed in 2015 that gives \$1.6 billion to district leaders in the form of a block grant for initiatives that have the potential to improve students' well-being or provide them with a well-rounded education.
 - CEELO updated its ESSA State Scan, "[Every Student Succeeds Act and Opportunities to Prioritize Early Learning Policy Goals.](#)" which includes deadlines for state final plans, the plans themselves and implementation guidance.
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New Research

Racial Equity

[Research](#) from the Center for Research and Education Outcomes (CREDO) at Stanford University find that schools with a higher enrollment of black and poverty-stricken students are more likely to be shut down for poor performance. Findings also show that these children who are transferred are not likely to be placed in higher-performing schools. [Read more](#) from *Education Week*.

Charter Schools

[Mathematica Policy Research released](#) the findings from its analysis on the offer of admission to KIPP Pre-K in combination with the KIPP elementary schools; preliminary evidence suggests that KIPP Pre-K positively affects student achievement and the impact persists to some degree once students reach 2nd grade. Read *The 74's* [highlights and analysis](#) of the report.

Home Life Predicting Academic Success

New York University's [Early Head Start Research Evaluation Project](#) finds that children's home environments at an early age can predict academic skills by 5th grade. Other findings suggested that children's pre-kindergarten skills and 5th grade learning environments mediated longitudinal associations.

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News From The States

[FL](#) | [IL](#) | [LA](#) | [MI](#) | [NE](#) | [OK](#) | [TN](#) |

Florida

- Gwen Filosa of [FL Keys News](#) discusses the report to be presented at the Monroe County Board indicating that more than 75% of students in Head Start programs in the Florida Keys live below the federal poverty line.
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Illinois

- Gov. Rauner signed SB 1947 into law late last month ending the political showdown on the state's new school funding formula. The recently signed state budget necessitated that the legislature also enact an evidence-based school funding formula before appropriated funds would go to school districts across the state and the governor had done an amendatory veto of the original funding formula legislation SB 1. Read more from [Illinois Public Radio's](#) Dusty Rhodes.
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Louisiana

- [Education Week has highlighted](#) Louisiana's new approach to child care teacher preparation through a series of blog posts written by Louisiana child care professionals. As part of the Reforms of Act 3, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) and Louisiana Department of Education (LDE) created a new teacher credential called the [Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate](#).
 - [The Advocate's Will Sentel](#) writes about the changes in criminal background check requirements for child care employees in Louisiana, and the information sessions that preclude the transformation in March 2018.
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Michigan

- Claire Charlton of [Rapid Growth Media](#) writes about the state of early childhood experiences in Michigan.
 - [Bay City Times' Brian McVicar](#) hones in on the new law aimed at improving early literacy.
 - [Huron County View writes](#) about Michigan's state budget including changes to help provide greater availability of early childcare.
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Nebraska

- [The Omaha News' Rick Ruggles](#) details the Holland Foundation's \$2 million gift to the University of Nebraska, which will give additional money to improve child care and early childhood education, particularly for low-income kids.
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Oklahoma

- [U.S. News & World Report](#) looks at Oklahoma's drastic cuts to education, while simultaneously granting oil companies generous tax breaks.
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Tennessee

- Carley Gordon from [WSMV reports](#) on Nashville's growth causing a dilemma in child care.
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News and Resources

Family Leave

Alice Lloyd of *The Weekly Standard* details [policy updates and common situations](#) of parents on the topic of family paid leave.

Child Care

The National Center on Early Childhood Quality Assurance (ECQA Center) announced the release of new and updated resources that support states and territories in the implementation of Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) requirements. This and other resources are available on the [ECQA Center webpage](#).

Mental Health

The National Center on Early Childhood Health and Wellness [released a newsletter](#) regarding the importance of Mental Health in Preschool.

Breast-feeding

[Journal of the American Medical Association reports](#) on recent CDC findings on racial disparities in breast-feeding rates.

Infant Attachment

[EurekAlert!](#) posted an article from the Society for Research in Child Development on infant attachment and mother's response to child distress.

ESSA and Homelessness

- [Education Dive's Autumn Arnett](#) details the upcoming fall changes in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which describes ESSA alterations require tracking and outcome improvement reports for the nation's homeless students. The changes are a result of guidance from the US Department of Education that was updated earlier this year.
- The Civic Enterprises [released a report](#) chronicling the struggle of students experiencing homelessness that are tracked, and findings that report 42% of them drop out of school at some point due to instability in housing.

Achieve OnDemand Home Visiting Training

Check out new Achieve OnDemand live one-hour webinars and self-paced training offerings. All of the trainings are made by home visitors for home visitors. View the available trainings [online](#).

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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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