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**Highlights**

**Colorado Releases the Early Childhood Colorado Framework**

The governor and legislators came together to celebrate the release of the Early Childhood Colorado Framework, the state's roadmap for early childhood education, health and family support. Read about the release [here](#) and the framework [here](#). Read *The Colorado Statesman* media coverage [here](#).

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**Federal Updates**

**Appropriations**

In both the House and Senate, the Preschool Development Grants have been eliminated in current drafts of appropriations bills. According to a press release from the US Department of Education and Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, 100,000 children in 200 high-need communities across 18 states could lose access to high-quality preschool in the middle of the program's course. Read the press release [here](#).

**Early Childhood Programs Inclusion Policy Statement**

The US Departments of Health and Human Services and Education released a final policy statement on including children with disabilities in high-quality early childhood programs. Read the statement and executive summary [here](#).

**US Census Health Insurance and Poverty Data Release**

The US Census Bureau announced that 46.7 million people were in poverty in 2014 making the official poverty rate for the nation 14.8%. Neither the number of people nor the poverty rate were statistically different from prior year estimates. On the other hand, the number of people and percentage of people without health insurance declined to 33 million and 10.4% from 41.8 million and 13.3%, respectively, in 2013. Read more [here](#).

**Child Nutrition Reauthorization**

- The current child nutrition programs law-the Healthy, *Hunger-Free Kids Act* of 2010-is due for reauthorization by September 30, 2015. The Senate Agriculture Committee was set to mark up its Child Nutrition Reauthorization bill on September

17 but Sen. Pat Roberts, chairman of the Senate Agriculture Nutrition & Forestry Committee, said he needed more time to finish legislation and postponed the markup. Read more [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

- US Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack spoke to the media at the National Press Club, sharing his own childhood story struggling with obesity and calling on Congress to reauthorize child nutrition programs after members return from recess. Sec. Vilsack also announced an additional \$8 million investment for implementing programs in the 2010 *Hunger-Free Kids Act*. Read more [here](#).
- Politico notes that some executives of major food companies are quieting down their opposition to the school lunch standards First Lady Michelle Obama championed in 2010 as they have adjusted to the new regulations and do not want the reauthorization to make more changes. Read more [here](#).
- Rep. Rosa DeLauro and 95 other House Democrats wrote to Pope Francis requesting that during his late September visit to a joint session of Congress, he speak about hunger. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

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### **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)**

Congress could begin debating components of TANF reauthorization after the August recess. This would be the first time the program has been reauthorized since 2005. Read more [here](#).

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### **Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)**

The Senate and House still need to reconcile differences in the chambers' respective reauthorization legislation as members return from recess. Sen. Lamar Alexander has reported the conference group should find a deal by the end of September. Read more [here](#). Education Week examines the added pressure of Rep. John Kline's announcement to not seek reelection on successfully passing ESEA reauthorization. Read more [here](#).

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### **Head Start Collaboration**

The Office of Head Start within the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is preparing the Head Start Collaboration Offices (HSCOs) annual report, and comments are being reviewed starting September 30. Read more [here](#).

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

ACF, HHS is proposing to conduct a descriptive study with two components: (1) survey of partnership grantee and delegate agency directors and child care partners and (2) follow-up case studies of 12 selected partnerships. Federal Register notice and comment timeline available [here](#).

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### **Social-Emotional and Behavioral Health and Child Care**

The Office of Child Care, ACF, HHS released an information memorandum about "state policies to promote social-emotional and behavioral health of young children in child care settings in partnership with families," encouraging states to adopt these policies and consider recommendations while preparing the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) State plans. Read more [here](#).

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## Policy Trends and Analysis

### Child Poverty

The Urban Institute's senior fellow Caroline Ratcliffe analyzed data from the Panel Study of Income Dynamics and found that nearly two in every five children spend at least one year in poverty before the age of 18, which is higher than the annual figures released from the US Census Bureau. Read the report, "Child Poverty and Adult Success," [here](#) and a *Wall Street Journal* article [here](#).

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### Language Development Assessment and Screening

New America analyzes the status of funding for early education and K-12 programs in the House and Senate appropriations bills, including the zero funding for Preschool Development Grants. Read more [here](#).

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### Child Care

- The Economic Policy Institute produced the report, "Parents' Non-Standard Work Schedules Make Adequate Childrearing Difficult: Reforming Labor Market Practices Can Improve Children's Cognitive and Behavioral Outcomes." Among other conclusions, the report finds that "young children and adolescents of parents working unpredictable schedules or outside standard daytime working hours are more likely to have inferior cognitive and behavioral outcomes." Read more [here](#).
  - The Center for Economic Development (CED) released an economic study of child care called "Child Care in State Economies," that looks at the impact of paid child care on labor force participation, as well as the industry's state economic impact. The report finds that child care is a \$41.5 billion industry and estimates it indirectly supports other industries at about \$42 billion for a total of \$83.5 billion. A new website with the report, executive summary, state fact sheets, talking points, and social media is located [here](#) and Forbes covered the report [here](#).
  - The Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) published its annual CCDBG Participation Fact Sheets for 2013. Overall it found that with 1.46 million children served on average per month-2013 had the lowest number since 1998. Read more [here](#).
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### Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

The Office of Family Assistance, US Department of Health and Human Services released the annual TANF financial data for FY2014, which according to the CLASP indicated a second consecutive year of declining combined federal and state spending on core activities-basic assistance, child care and work-related activities. The driver of the decline was basic assistance as both work-related and child care expenditures (including funds transferred to the Child Care Development Block Grant) increased nationally. Data for FY2015 will provide more detail on activities such as pre-kindergarten activities since new reporting requirements will have gone into effect. Read more [here](#).

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### Federal Low-Income Programs

The US Government Accountability Office (GAO) published a new report, "Federal Low-Income Programs: Multiple Programs Target Diverse Populations and Needs," surveying 80 federal programs (including 6 tax expenditures) in response to a request from Sen. Jeff Sessions and Rep. Gary Palmer. The report does not make any recommendations, but provides descriptions of the programs, identifies demographic characteristics of people in poverty and people in selected programs and reviews research on impact on incentives to work. Read more [here](#).

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### **Integrated Data Systems**

The National Research Center on Hispanic Children and Families released "Integrated Data Systems: An Emerging Tool to Support Services for Low-Income Hispanic Families with Young Children." Building on the growing body of research that suggests Hispanic families use public assistance programs differently than other ethnic groups, the report identifies integrated data systems as a tool to continuously and more accurately monitor these variations. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

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### **Child Nutrition**

The US Department of Agriculture reports that 1 in 7 Americans were in food insecure households in 2014 in its 20th annual food security data release. Read more [here](#).

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### **PreK-3rd Alignment**

New America's Early Education Initiative published, "Building Strong Readers in Minnesota: PreK-3rd Grade Policies That Support Children's Literacy Development," about the state policies and initiatives for improving literacy outcomes by starting at a young age. Recommendations include minimizing the overlap in grades between educator licenses and expand the use of strong assessments and data systems through the whole PreK-3rd grade continuum. Read the report [here](#) and a summary [here](#).

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### **Child Welfare**

The Annie E. Casey Foundation's Casey Family Programs analyzed the child welfare placement patterns of American Indian children in light of the 1978 Indian Child Welfare Act that required considering the best interest of the child and looking at the least restrictive environment in its new study, "Placement Patterns for American Indian Children Involved with Child Welfare." Read more [here](#).

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## **New Research**

### **Housing Instability and Preschool Choice**

The Children and Youth Services Review published "Parental preschool choices and challenges when young children and their families experience homelessness," that involved focus groups with 28 families who had experienced homelessness to identify the most important factors influencing preschool enrollment and provide policy responses. Read more [here](#).

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## Upcoming Events

### September 23

Pew Charitable Trust's Home Visiting Campaign webinar: **"Exploring Universal Home Visiting"**

[Learn More >](#)

### October 16

The 2015 Annual Conference for EC Research and Evaluation at HighScope: **"Assessing Children's Progress in Early Education and Intervention: Challenges & Innovations in Diverse Contexts"**

[Learn More >](#)

## News and Resources

### Suspension and Expulsion

The Center on Enhancing Early Learning Outcomes (CEELO) published an annotated bibliography on the issue of early childhood suspension and expulsion, including research studies, and federal and state policy resources. Read more [here](#).

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### Homelessness

Child Care and Early Education Research Connections produced a research-to-policy resource list, "Early Care and Education Supports for Children Experiencing Homelessness," that surveys literature from the years 2000-2014. Read more [here](#).

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### Child Bullying

Child Trends wrote a report called "Bullies in the Block Area: The Early Childhood Origins of 'Mean' Behavior" summarizing early childhood behaviors and factors that are associated with bullying in the older ages. Read the report [here](#) and a blog post by Child Trends and the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) [here](#).

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### Early Childhood

- In the Stanford Social Innovation Review, Susie Buffett reflects on lessons learned from her mother and Educare partnerships across the country, and how these skills can help young children learn and grow. Read more [here](#).
- The Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis economist Rob Grunewald discussed the Federal Reserve's interest in early childhood development in a Q&A video with the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL). Watch [here](#).
- The Save the Children Action Network (SCAN) released a new poll that indicates that among voters in battleground states, there is a universal belief in the importance of early childhood education, despite party affiliation. Read the memo

[here](#).

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## State Government

- CEELO released its annual Directory of State Early Learning Contacts with the additions of Preschool Development Grantees (PDG) and Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) leads. Read more [here](#).
- NCSL announced its fourth class of Early Learning Fellows that includes 22 legislators and three legislative staff from 15 states and the District of Columbia. The fellows first met and kicked off the year at the NSCL Annual Conference in Seattle with special early learning sessions about brain architecture and a site visit of an Educare program. The fellows will next look at early childhood data systems and examine the issue of suspension and expulsion in pre-K. Read about the fellows [here](#).

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## Instructional Leadership

The National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) reported that only one in five first- and second-year principals with preschool programs felt well-trained in early education instructional methods. Read more [here](#).

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## Preschool

- First Five Years Fund (FFYF) blogged about the importance of preschool and the inability of the Preschool Development Grants to meet the full need in the country without additional federal investment. Read more [here](#).
- Stateline, the Pew Charitable Trusts' magazine wrote about the growing interest and consensus and agreement on the importance of 'preschool,' but the lack of cross-state definitions. Read more [here](#).

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## Kindergarten

New America's deputy director and director of the early education initiative published an op-ed with CNN about the importance of kindergarten and how policymakers can reshape the primary years. Read more [here](#).

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## Child Care

- The Economic Policy Institute (EPI) updated its Family Budget Calculator that highlights the necessary family income needed to "attain a secure yet modest standard of living," including the cost of child care. Use the calculator [here](#).
- The Center for American Progress (CAP) unveiled its proposal to expand access to and make child care more affordable in its report, "A New Vision for Child Care in the United States: A Proposed New Tax Credit to Expand High-Quality Child Care." Under the High-Quality Child Care Tax Credit proposal, up to \$14,000 per child

would be provided to offset the huge financial burden families face. Read more [here](#).

- NCSL's State Legislatures magazine published "The Rising Costs of Raising a Child" using data from the US Department of Agriculture. Read more [here](#).
- CLASP created a new national repository on job scheduling that includes a section on research and reports related to job schedules and child care. Read more [here](#).
- Building on the inter-organizational success of the Work Support Strategies (WSS) initiative, CLASP and the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) announced a new advocacy initiative, Advancing Strategies to Align Programs (ASAP), to promote benefit access. Five grantees were selected to carry the initial work forward. Read more [here](#).
- The US Congressional Progressive Caucus (CPC) has hosted a series of events with child care teachers at the US Capitol to highlight a resolution that "calls for high-quality, guaranteed, affordable and accessible child care for every American family and a strong child care workforce that is paid a living wage of at least \$15 an hour and has a voice on the job." Read more at the SEIU Kids First Facebook page [here](#).

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## Child Nutrition

- US Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack spoke at an event at CAP, "Strengthening Child Nutrition Programs: Back to School and Back to Work for Congress," about the opportunity for child nutrition programs such as school breakfasts and lunches, summer meals, and Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) to reduce child poverty. Watch the remarks [here](#).
- The Food Research & Action Center (FRAC) and Children's Healthwatch published the seventh issue of the groups' periodical, Food Insecurity and Hunger in the US: New Research, on the topic of "Early Childhood Nutrition Sets the Trajectory for Lifelong Health and Well-Being: WIC and the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)." Read more [here](#).

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## Home Visiting/Teen Pregnancy

- NCSL published a briefing paper, "Addressing Pregnancy Among Rural Teens," which finds that while teen birth rates are seeing historic lows, there still remains significant disparity among rural teens. Read more [here](#).
- The Center for the Study of Social Policy published "Expectant & Parenting Youth in Foster Care," that addresses the developmental needs of both the child and minor parent and the impact of a two-generation approach on improving the outcomes. Read more [here](#).

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## Child Welfare

- The Child Welfare Information Gateway within the Children's Bureau, Administration for Children and Families, US Department of Health and Human Services, published an issue brief called, "Understanding the Effects of Maltreatment on Brain Development." Read more [here](#).
- NCSL's Child Welfare Project updated its Child Welfare Legislation Database 2012-2015 with enacted legislation from 2015. The database is organized into 22 topics, including health and mental/behavioral health. Read more [here](#). In particular, NCSL updated its analysis of state kinship care legislation from 2012-2015 on its "Supporting Relative Caregivers of Children" webpage. Read more [here](#).
- NCSL created a webpage to learn about new and innovative programs being used by states for data collection and information systems in the child welfare system. Read more [here](#).

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### Dual Language Learners

New America's Dual Language Learner National Work Group summarized the recently-released research paper by NYU professors entitled "Print-Related Practices in Low-Income Latino Homes and Preschoolers' School-Readiness Outcomes." Read more [here](#).

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### Early Intervention

In honor of International Literacy Day, New America reviewed the importance of Early Intervention programs with regard to combating illiteracy. Read more [here](#).

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### Pay for Success (PFS)

CAP published a new brief called "From Cashable Savings to Public Value: Pricing Program Outcomes in Pay for Success," on guidance for government agencies on how to value outcomes in the burgeoning PFS market. Read more [here](#).

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### Presidential Election 2015

- Forbes contributor John Lechleiter penned a piece about the unique opportunity early childhood education has for a bipartisan consensus and encouraged presidential candidates to make it a defining issue for 2016. Read more [here](#).
- Republican Presidential Candidate Jeb Bush discussed preschool at the 2015 New Hampshire Education Summit, and New America research Conor Williams authored an op-ed about the problems with Bush's references. Read more [here](#).

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## News From The States

AZ | CA | CO | FL | GA | IL | LA | KS | ME | MA | MS | MI | NE | NM | NY | OK | OR | PA | TX | WA

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## Arizona

- The *Arizona Daily Star* profiles the origins of the Tucson early literacy non-profit, Make Way for Books, and its impact on Tucson children and the city's preschools. Read more [here](#).
- The Tucson Unified School District's new preK program left the district with \$800,000 in debt as the state is not funding the Infant and Early Learning Centers. The district noted it was not hoping to make a profit, but at least break even. Read more [here](#).

## California

- The California State Senate passed Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 77 that lays out a vision with regard to the California Early Intervention Services Act. The legislative resolution was introduced by Assemblyman Mark Stone, sponsored by California non-profit Children Now, and passed in the California State Assembly earlier this summer. Read ACR 77 [here](#). Read a sign-on letter requesting the California Health and Human Services Agency to prioritize child development that Children Now and First 5 Association supported Assembly Health Committee Chair Rob Bonta in gathering signatures from 38 members [here](#).
- The *Los Angeles Times* discussed the increasing rigor of and push to make kindergarten mandatory in multiple articles last week. Reporter Sonali Kohli wrote about the changing of standards over time for kindergarten in light of the mandatory proposals [here](#). Kohli also wrote about the new Los Angeles Unified School District's expanded transitional kindergarten program [here](#) in the *Los Angeles Times*. The *Times* Editorial Board argued the California Teachers Association proposal for compulsory kindergarten was expensive (at least \$200 million a year) and unnecessary as almost every 5-year-old in the state already attends public kindergarten programs (93 percent). Read more [here](#).
- United States Rep. Barbara Lee visited an East Oakland in-home child care provider to discuss the financial challenges facing parents and the industry at large. Read more [here](#).
- The south Santa Barbara County's Kindergarten Success Institutes (KSI) origins and curriculum for assisting with the transition of children to kindergarten are profiled by the Santa Barbara Independent. Read more [here](#).

## Colorado

Rocky Mountain PBS CEO Doug Price talks about the state of early childhood education in "Birth to 3: What's new in early childhood learning?" Guests included Colorado Lt.Gov. Joe Garcia and Denver Public Schools' Happy Haynes. Watch [here](#).

## Florida

- The Florida Children and Youth Cabinet voted to send a letter to Gov. Rick Scott and other state leaders about the importance of prioritizing early childhood education and intervention during "the first 1,000 days" in a new campaign highlighting the importance of a child's development between pregnancy to age 3. Read more [here](#).
- *The Gainesville Sun* editorial board discussed the Florida pre-K programs faulty record on quality compared to access in light of Republican Presidential Candidate

and former governor Jeb Bush's positive boasts about the program at the New Hampshire Education Summit. Read more [here](#).

- The *Herald-Tribune* published an editorial about the importance of investing in school readiness. Read more [here](#).

## Georgia

Gov. Nathan Deal proposed investing \$50 million in the state's lottery-funded early childhood pre-K program that he restructured in 2011, along with the HOPE college scholarship program, amidst budget concerns and increased demand. The changes to the pre-K school year was increased back to 180 days earlier, but the additional investment will help reduce the class sizes and increase teacher pay. Read more [here](#).

## Illinois

- Emergency rule changes to the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) restricting eligibility and access remain in place after the Legislature's Joint Commission on Administrative Rules (JCAR) failed to gain the three-fifths vote required to override the changes. The impact on service providers, including the Decatur Day Care Center and the Bloomington Day Care Center, have been severely impacted as the Pantagraph has chronicled [here](#).
- After the JCAR hearing, the Department of Human Services reassigned the state's Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) administrator Linda Saterfield to the office of Adult Services & Basic Support before she decided to retire after more than 30 years in state government. Read more [here](#).
- Mayor Emanuel called on Gov. Rauner to undo the cuts accusing the administration of "walking away from the children of the city of Chicago" as he announced that the city would set aside \$9 million to sustain service for some of the children living in the city. Read more [here](#).
- The State House attempted to restore the eligibility criteria for CCAP to its previous state during a special vote in early September, but the measure failed. Read more [here](#).
- Meanwhile, the Mayor of Chicago's second-term transition team is looking at full-day pre-K as a top priority for the city as only one-third of low-income 4-year-olds currently participate in it. Read more [here](#).
- Gov. Rauner signed into law legislation that would raise the gross income limit for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formally known as food stamps) eligibility to 165% of federal poverty level. This increase from 130% is completed through broad-based categorical eligibility policy meaning a family qualifies for a non-cash Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or State maintenance of effort (MOE) funded benefit. Read more [here](#).

## Indiana

US Secretary of Education Arne Duncan argued that the new preschool pilot in Indiana should not disallow children from immigrant families who are not US citizens, rejecting Gov. Mike Pence's stance that compliance with a federal law mandated this decision. Read more [here](#).

## Kansas

- The nonprofit Kansas Action for Children hosted a meeting to discuss the strategy for aligning state child care policies with the recently-reauthorized Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) in advance of the March 2016 due date for the final state compliance plan. Despite invitations, state officials did not attend but announced a similar meeting with industry professionals. Read more [here](#). Representatives from the National Women's Law Center (NWLC) and the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) attended the meeting and highlighted the difficulty states will face in implementing the reforms to improve quality and expand access without a guarantee of additional funding, leaving them forced to find additional funds to avoid cutting support. Read more [here](#).
- The Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools (KCKPS) announced it would participate in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) and begin providing free breakfast and lunch to all early childhood and elementary students. Part of the Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, CEP allows schools that enroll a certain percentage of children living in poverty to deem all children eligible for free and reduced lunch, reducing the administrative burden and stigma associated with tracking documentation for the program. Read more [here](#).
- The Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the University of Kansas released the Kansas Initiative for Developmental Ongoing Screening (KIDOS), an online toolkit created to strengthen systems and coordination of developmental screening and referrals. Read more [here](#).

## Louisiana

- As noted in *The Times-Picayune*, Louisiana could lose millions of dollars toward financing its preschool program if Congress moves ahead without including funding for the third year of preschool development grants in the FY2016 appropriations as it currently stands. Read more [here](#).
- The *American Press* profiled a kindergarten readiness program called BASIC (Be a Star in Class) Training and the new preschool readiness program Lil BITs (BASICS in Training) for children ages 2 to 3 that prepares children for the new educational settings and may have a positive impact on children with autism spectrum disorders. Read more [here](#).

## Maine

Members of the Maine Early Learning Investment Group (MELIG) responded to a Sunday editorial in the *Portland Press Herald* about the impact of poverty on Maine's children by indicating their support for and plan to invest in early childhood education to intervene against the detrimental effects of poverty. Read more [here](#).

## Massachusetts

For the second summer, a unique early learning program in Boston called Pathways served homeless children. Read more [here](#).

## Missouri

In order to increase funding for early childhood education, Democratic State Representative Courtney Curtis of Ferguson is leading a group of black elected officials to propose an increase to Missouri's tobacco tax 50 cents. Read more [here](#).

## Michigan

- Detroit officials have launched an enrollment campaign for the city's Head Start and Early Head Start programs, attempting to address any parental confusion around changes to available services. The Detroit Head Start Learning Network launched DetroitHeadStart.com in conjunction with the campaign. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).
- The NPR affiliate in Western Michigan and MLive.com highlighted the recently implemented Parents as Teachers program in Kalamazoo County. Read more here and [here](#).

## Nebraska

The Nebraska Learning Community Council proposed a property tax increase in its 2015-16 budget proposal in order to fund building leases on Omaha learning centers and to fund a new comprehensive birth-to-age-8 intervention at 10 sites included in the early childhood plan developed by superintendents and the Buffett Early Childhood Institute. Read more [here](#).

## New Mexico

Preschool advocates and the American Federation of Teachers unveiled a proposal for expanding and revamping early childhood education that would include, among other things, a substitute educator pool, a paid sick leave trust fund, and professional development. Read more [here](#).

## New York

- A local NPR affiliate reports that districts without pre-K programs in NY is not because they oppose the program. Instead these districts do not have the budget capacity to upfront funds for a program that they are only reimbursed for if they win a competitive grant. Read more [here](#).
- The second year of New York City Mayor de Blasio's free "Pre-K for All" program started last week after the budget included additional funds to increase staff available for health, safety and quality control. Read more [here](#). As a result, the city announced that all "priority health violations" had been addressed after a May investigation highlighted the thousands of violations at community-based pre-K centers. Read more [here](#).
- Mayor de Blasio announced the city will offer 4,500 half-day pre-K slots after receiving push-back from parents who wanted more time with their children and religious groups that wanted time for religious education. Read more [here](#).
- State advocates applauded Gov. Cuomo's \$340 million Pre-K investment but argue it does not do enough to serve students outside of New York City. Read more [here](#).

## Oklahoma

- Claudio Sanchez from NPRReD reported on the long-term benefits of Tulsa's high-quality pre-k program. Listen and read more [here](#).
- Oklahoma City school district is starting a series of free community events to increase parent engagement. Read more [here](#).

## Oregon

- Gov. Kate Brown announced that Oregon Chief Education Officer Nancy Golden will retire this summer after two years at the helm of Oregon's public school system from preschool to college. Golden's chief of staff and education advisor, Lindsey Capps, will serve as interim CEO. Read more [here](#).
- Members of Oregon Save Our Schools responded to *The Oregonian* editorial board's article about the organization's "wild warnings" on the danger of the Oregon Kindergarten Assessment (OKA) in an opinion piece upholding the belief that OKA is bad for children. Read more [here](#).
- The Bulletin profiled a short transitional kindergarten program in the Crook County School District and the push by officials to expand learning to beyond kindergarten, some of which uses Title I funds previously earmarked for kindergarten for the preschool programs as the state now funds kindergarten. Read more [here](#).
- Licensed in-home child care providers will begin to receive unannounced inspections after the Oregon's Early Learning Council approved the rule change earlier in the year. Read more [here](#).

## Pennsylvania

Providers of the state's Pre-K Counts program are feeling the impact of the state's budget stalemate as the state board was looking to expand the program, but now the majority of programs are operating "close to the financial edge" according to a report from the Nonprofit Finance Fund and the William Penn Foundation. Read more [here](#).

## Texas

The Austin School District started a Pre-K program for 3-year-olds with the financial support of United Way. Read more [here](#).

## Washington

- Rep. Ross Hunter will leave the state legislature and his role as chief Democratic budget writer to lead the Department of Early Learning after Gov. Inslee appointed him at the end of August. Hunter's first task as director will be to help implement \$137 million investment in the department from the Early Start Act. Read more [here](#).
- As a result of the additional \$174 million investment in the state budget, an additional 23,000 Washington children will receive full-day kindergarten. Read more [here](#).
- The Seattle Public Schools Board of Directors met and approved a proposal to allow the City of Seattle to manage three preschool program classrooms. 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 Eleanore McKee ([emckee@theounce.org](mailto:emckee@theounce.org))



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