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**Highlights**

**2016 Preschool Analysis Shows Increased Spending and Funding**

The National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) released its [2016 Preschool Yearbook](#), which provides new, detailed information on state preschool programs. The report finds state-funded preschool program enrollment is at its highest (1.5 million children) and that state spending rose 8% over the last year, rebounding since the recession. However, while some states have seen improvements others have slipped. Read analysis of the report from [74 million](#) and [Education Week](#), and [NPR](#). See the state section for news on how specific states have performed.

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**Federal Updates**

**Home Visiting Reauthorization**

The US House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee introduced legislation to reauthorize the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program for 5 years at \$400 million annually. Read the [press release](#) about the bill - "Increasing Opportunity through Evidence-based Home Visiting Act" for more information including a section-by-section summary. Read a [statement](#) by First Five Years Fund.

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**The Condition of US Education**

The National Center for Education statistics published [The Condition of Education report](#) looking at trends and updates from preschool to post-secondary, including a finding that the percentage of 3-5 year olds in preschool was higher for children whose parents had higher degrees. Read more about the report from [Education Week](#).

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**Health Care**

The Congressional Budget Office released an updated score for the revised American Health Care Act (AHCA) that passed the US House of Representatives earlier in May. CBO found that by 2026 there would be 23 million more people uninsured compared with current law, which is similar to what it reported for the original AHCA. Read more from [The New York](#)

[Times](#). ZERO TO THREE [released analysis](#) of how AHCA could take away insurance from babies and families.

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## US Department of Education Staffing

President Trump and Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos announced new hires at the Department, including assistant secretary for congressional affairs, which requires Senate approval, [according to Education Week](#).

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## Home Visiting Reauthorization

Efforts to reauthorize the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV) move ahead as six home visiting program leaders met with Congressional staff in late May. [The Chronicle of Social Change](#) reported on the meeting as well as the potential for bipartisan support on this issue.

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## US Department of Education Grant Oversight

The US General Accountability Office (GAO) [released a report](#) finding that Department of Education did not appropriately monitor discretionary grants and recommends establishing and implementing more detailed practices and guidance. [Read more from Education Week](#) on these findings.

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## Policy Trends & Analysis

### Preschool

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation released the brief, "[Promoting Social and Emotional Learning in Preschool: Programs and Practices that Work](#)," which looks at what is currently known about effective preschool social-emotional learning programs and practices and how these programs can benefit children and families.

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### Home Visiting

The US Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families [released an issue brief](#) about its Tribal Home Visiting program, A Journey Toward Strong Programs and Thriving Families: The Story of Three Tribal Home Visiting Grantees. The brief interviews three grantees and analyzes how Tribal MIECHV has impacted their communities.

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### Parental Leave

CLASP [released an analysis](#) of President Trump's proposed parental leave plan in a new brief. Their analysis finds that the proposal omits types of caregiving and medical leave and does not provide sufficient funding to help workers.

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### Early Childhood

The Illinois Education Research Council and the Illinois Board of Higher Education published the brief, [Advancing the Illinois Early Childhood Education Workforce: A Model College and Career Pathway](#), which outlines how to use current resources to develop a more seamless, flexible pathway to support the early childhood workforce.

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### Title I Funding

*EdBuild* finds that states are not utilizing Title I funds to provide more robust services to low-income students in its new report [Zahava Stadler with EdBuild writes an overview of the findings](#) in *74 Million*.

## New Research

### Early Education

The National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) published researchers Jorge Luis Garcia, James J. Heckman and Anna L. Ziff's new study "[Gender Differences in the Benefits of an Influential Early Childhood Program.](#)" The study looks at gender differences in the impact of an early childhood program, finding that high-quality center-based programs show more positive benefits for boys than girls; and that, even home care is more beneficial for boys than low-quality center-based child care.

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### Preschool

Researchers from UC Berkeley and the Food and Drug Administration find in their [recently published study](#) in the Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology that a focus on academics can produce stronger effects in children's academic performance compared with children in home-based care. These effects persisted through kindergarten. [The New York Times's Dana Goldstein](#) writes about these findings.

## Upcoming Events

### June 20, 2017 at 2pm ET

The Child Care Administrative Data Analysis Center in the US Department of Health and Human Services will host the webinar "Using Administrative Data to Address Policy-Relevant Research Questions in Early Care and Education." Learn more and [register online](#).

### November 29-December 1, 2017

ZERO TO THREE's Annual Conference will be held in San Diego California. Visit their [website](#) to learn more.

### January 31-February 2, 2018

The Ounce of Prevention Fund is hosting the Seventh National Summit on Quality in Home Visiting Programs will take place in Washington, DC. [Registration is now open](#).

## News and Resources

### ESSA

- Elliot Regenstein, Maia Connors and Ria Romero-Jurado, from the Ounce of Prevention Fund, write on how advocates can promote school and systems improvement as part of ESSA in a [piece for New America](#).
- As part of the same series, New America and CEELO highlight a number of ESSA related issues, including how to use ESSA to address [chronic absences](#) and how to use ESSA to [improve teacher-child interactions](#).

- [Education Week's Alyson Klein](#) writes on what US Department of Education vacancies might mean for ESSA.
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## Early Childhood

- [Brookings' David Whitebread](#) writes on the importance of play to promote early learning.
  - [NPR's Robert Siegel discusses](#) how music can help young children learn language and grammar.
  - [The Washington Post's Valerie Strauss discusses](#) the value of supporting early education at the federal level.
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## Child Care

- [Meredith Kolodner of The Hechinger Report analyzes](#) President Trump's budget cuts to campus child care and the potential effects of these cuts.
  - [The Atlantic's Hayley Glatter](#) writes on the research that shows high quality child care is especially beneficial for males.
  - [ThinkProgress published](#) a piece from Leila Schochet and Katie Hamm on President Trump's proposed budget cuts to child care for military families.
  - [The Outline](#) looks at why more tech companies do not offer child care benefits.
  - [Entrepreneur magazine](#) looks at how to improve outdated child care benefits.
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## Preschool

- [Nonprofit Quarterly](#) published a piece from Martin Levine looking how to both meet the needs of children and teachers in high quality preschool programs.
  - [Slate published](#) a piece from New America's Abbie Lieberman and Laura Bornfreund on why states have so few qualifications for running preschool programs.
  - In *The New York Times* [Dana Goldstein writes](#) on how schools can build better preschools.
  - [Brookings](#) has experts weigh in on what research says on whether preschool works.
  - [US News and World Report published](#) an op-ed from Sara Mead that highlights the importance of preschool curricula and how debates on quality can overlook this critical piece.
  - *The New York Times* published a [student opinion piece](#) on what the purpose of preschool is.
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## Home Visiting

Check out new Achieve OnDemand live one hour webinars and self-paced training offerings. All trainings are made by home visitors for home visitors. Visit our [website](#) for more information.

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## Head Start

[Sara Mead published](#) a piece in *US News and World Report* on the anniversary of Head Start, looking at the progress it has made and where it can continue to improve.

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## STEM

A [blog piece](#) from the Joan Ganz Cooney Center looks at the work behind developing an evidence-based math app for early childhood.

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## Paid Leave

[The New York Times's Maggie Haberman writes](#) on the potential challenges of advancing a parental leave bill in Congress.

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## QRIS

[New America's Abbie Lieberman writes](#) on a recent policy paper from RAND that looks at what we do and do not know about QRISs and how to improve future iterations.

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## News From The States

[AR](#) | [AZ](#) | [CA](#) | [FL](#) | [GA](#) | [IL](#) | [IN](#) | [KS](#) | [ME](#) | [MI](#) | [NE](#) | [NH](#) | [NM](#) | [NY](#) | [OK](#) | [OR](#) | [TN](#) | [DC](#) | [WI](#) |

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## Arkansas

- [KNWA reports](#) that Arkansas increased preschool spending per child for the first time since the recession.
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## Arizona

- [The Arizona Daily Star](#) reports that in Pima County early childhood enrollment and program quality have increased.
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## California

- [The Los Angeles Times reports](#) on efforts to increase income eligibility for child care before the final state budget is sent on June 15.
  - [The Orange County Register writes](#) on local efforts to better serve preschoolers with mental health supports.
  - The QRIS Learning Network [hosted a webinar](#) on how the state uses QRIS to improve early childhood systems development.
  - [KVPR reports](#) that Fresno sent back \$10 million in unspent child care funds last year. According to Fresno, the income eligibility was too low to find families who could use the funds.
  - [The Long Beach Post writes](#) that ground was just broken on the first Educare school site in Southern California.
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## Florida

- [The Gainesville Sun writes](#) on child care providers getting contracts terminated with the local Early Learning Coalition for violations.

- [The Gainesville Daily Register reports](#) that the local school district is looking into a tuition based preschool option.
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## Georgia

- [The Atlanta Journal Constitution's Maureen Downey](#) writes that the state has seen little growth in preschool enrollment, according to the recent NIEER's Preschool Yearbook.
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## Illinois

- [Voices for Illinois Children](#) analyzed the proposed Healthy Workplace Act (HB 2771) that would allow employees to accrue and take up to five days of paid sick leave a year.
  - [The Chicago Sun-Times published](#) a letter from Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart on how a lack of budget harms families and children.
  - CBS Chicago reports on efforts of social service organizations and government watchdog groups to urge state lawmakers to pass a budget.
  - [WPSD Local reports](#) that the preschool program run by Williamson County Early Childhood Cooperative will not be able to operate next year without a state budget.
  - [The Southern Illinoian reports](#) on how the proposed AHCA Medicaid cuts would harm millions receiving special education funding.
  - [In These Times](#) writes on how child care centers have suffered under the budget stalemate.
  - [In These Times reports](#) on Chicago's Pay For Success investment and questions its potential to save the city money.
  - [The La Grange Patch reports](#) that two suburban nonprofits, Pillars and Community Nurse Health Center, are exploring a potential merger.
  - [The Daily Herald published](#) an op-ed from Joseph Henning on how early childhood education and care can promote skill development that leads to future success.
  - [The Herald & Review writes](#) that the Decatur schools and Richland center are looking into a potential preschool partnership.
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## Indiana

- [WTHR reports](#) on how one preschool is utilizing the state's On My Way Pre-K program.
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## Kansas

- [KCUR 89.3 reports](#) that the state is spending less than one-third on cash assistance than it did six years ago and serving significantly fewer people.
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## Maine

- Maine Democratic House Speaker Sara Gideon [introduced bill LD 1475](#), An Act to Reduce Child Poverty by Leveraging Investments in Families Today (LIFT) to increase TANF spending. [Read analysis](#) of the bill from Maine's Children Alliance.

- [The Press Herald published](#) an article from Bob Holmberg advocating for legislation to whether early childhood consultation could benefit the whole state.

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## Michigan

- [Rapid Growth Media writes](#) about the Grand Rapids Public Museum's new exhibit engaging preschoolers in STEM.
- [Claire Charlton writes](#) in Model D as part of the "Early Education Matters" series that rating systems are helping improve the quality of early childhood care and education in Detroit.
- [TV 6 reports](#) on the expansion of home visiting services to Michigan's Upper Peninsula.
- [Claire Charlton writes](#) in Model D as part of the "Early Education Matters" series () how the design of early childhood centers in Detroit is meant to enrich children's educational experience.

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## Nebraska

- [The Lincoln Journal Star's Margaret Reist reports](#) that Nebraskans view early childhood as important even if they do not have children.

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## New Hampshire

- [EdSurge reports](#) that educators in the state are moving to a competency-based assessment framework that removes grade-level labels.
- The New Hampshire Fiscal Policy Institute [released an overview](#) of state tax and revenue sources.
- [New Hampshire Public Radio reports](#) that the New Hampshire House has approved using revenues from an online bingo lottery game to fund full-day Kindergarten.

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## New Mexico

- [The New Mexican reports](#) that that the state met 8 out of 10 benchmarks for providing high-quality preschool as described in the most recent NIEER Preschool Yearbook.
- [The Tribune reports](#) of state efforts to increase the number of low-income families utilizing child care assistance.

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## New York

- [The Democrat & Chronicle](#) reports on the need for more action on child care as part of an anti-poverty strategy.
  - [The Kearney Hub published](#) a letter from Kearney Sheriff, Neil Miller, on the need to invest more in home visiting in the state.
  - [Politico's Eliza Shapiro reports](#) on the continued debate in New York City over the value and implications of universal preschool.
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## Oklahoma

- [KJRH reports](#) that the state's Department of Human Services is forced to cut \$33 million from its budget, presenting risks to those receiving child care and child welfare services.

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## Oregon

- [The Oregonian reports](#) that an early learning program targeting English language learners, who did not attend preschool prior to Kindergarten, is showing positive effects.

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## Tennessee

- [Chalkbeat reports](#) that the state is updating its preschool funding award process by emphasizing quality in programs over number served.

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## Washington, DC

- [The Hechinger Report's Alan Richard](#) asks if investing in preschool can help end school segregation in DC.

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## Wisconsin

- [The Early Childhood DATA Collaborative](#) profiled Wisconsin and its approach toward linking early childhood data among three state agencies to improve services.
- [The Wisconsin State Journal](#) reports that Madison has secured a location for its first "Early Childhood Zone," which is meant to improve services to families and children before starting school.

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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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