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## Highlights

### Federal Tax Reform

The Senate is currently debating and modifying the bill that was passed out of the Senate Finance Committee and then the Senate Budget Committee. The most recent bill includes many of the tax changes of the House bill plus a repeal of the individual mandate. Given this, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) released a [cost estimate](#) that the plan at the time would increase the deficit by \$1.4 trillion and cause 13 million people to lose health insurance coverage. This movement comes after the House passed its tax reform legislation H.R.1, The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

- Follow along as things unfold and read additional details from the [New York Times](#) and [Vox Media](#).
- Find up-to-date information and resources from the [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities](#), [National Women's Law Center](#), and [Center for American Progress](#) on the impact of this legislation on children and families.

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## Federal Updates

### Home Visiting

The fate of the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood (MIECHV) program remains up in the air after Congress failed to extend it before the program expired at the end of the fiscal year. Before the program expired the House passed [HR 2824 Increasing Opportunity through Evidence-Based Home Visiting Act](#) and the Senate had introduced [S 1829 Strong Families Act of 2017](#). Both of which would reauthorize the program for five years and provide additional funding, although as [Education Week's Christina Samuels highlighted](#) where there were some discrepancies in the approach to funding the bill. More recently, the Senate Finance Committee released a "discussion draft" of its extender provisions that would extend the program for two years (compared to five in the other bills), but would not expand funding for the program. Member of the National Home Visiting Coalition and partners continue to monitor the situation.

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### Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

Congress has also failed to pass an extension for CHIP since the program expired at the end of the fiscal year. The House passed a [substitute bill](#) to the one it initially heard and passed out of the House Energy & Commerce Committee at the end of October that would combine CHIP funding with community health center (CHC) funding. The Senate Finance Committee also held a markup of the Keeping Kids' Insurance Dependable and

Secure (KIDS) Act (S. 1827) that would extend funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program and transition it to a [state-federal partnership](#). As with MIECHV, the legislative vehicle remains unclear and negotiations are ongoing.

The [Georgetown Center for Children and Families](#) has produced a number of reports and blog posts about the impact of the expiration on states.

The Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services (CMCS) released an [informational bulletin](#) with guidance on what states should do if they should exhaust funds.

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## Policy Trends & Analysis

### Latino Parents

Working weekends, evenings and early morning hours is the norm for most employed, low-income Latino parents, according to [new research](#) from the National Research Center on Hispanic Children & Families. Many, and particularly immigrant parents, also have little advance notice of their work schedules. These type of work schedules can make it difficult for families to access child care options, particularly the publicly funded care designed to [support low-income families](#).

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### Early Education Outcomes

The Urban Institute released findings in its new report, "[Strategies for Supporting Access to High-Quality Early Education Programs: Building Ladders of Opportunity for Young People in the Great Lakes States, Brief 1](#)" examining the outcomes of home visiting and preschool programs for children and families living in the Great Lakes region. This is the first in a series.

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### Intentional Teaching

Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute published a review of research measuring quality of early childhood education. The press released published by [EurekaAlert](#) suggests that the instructional practices of preschool teachers have the largest impact on young children's academic and social skills.

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## New Research

### Educational Outcomes

The Educational Researcher recently [published an article](#) highlighting the impact of Early Childhood Education (ECE) on longitudinal outcomes in education. Noteworthy findings include a significant reduction in special education placements, increases in high school graduation rates and positive impacts on grade retention.

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### Homelessness

A [recent brief](#) by the University of Chicago's Chapin Hall research institute chronicles youth homelessness in America. Published in the Journal of Adolescent Health, [the study](#) encompasses a broad view of youth homelessness- in particular, findings show that one in 10 young adults, and one in 30 adolescents experience a form of homelessness. [NPR](#) covered the report release.

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### Adverse Childhood Experiences

[New data analysis](#) conducted through the Child & Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative based on data from the National Survey of Children's Health shows that 20% of children have had more than one Adverse Childhood Experience (ACEs). These traumas

(death, violence, alcohol problems) have longitudinal impacts on children's health.

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## News and Resources

### Preschool

- CEELo released a new free [online communications toolkit](#) to support its Cost of Preschool Quality estimator.
  - The American Public Health Association (APHA) recently adopted new policy positions addressing positions on universal preschool. Read a brief description of the position as well as other topics on the [APHA website](#).
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### Early Childhood Education

Christina Novoa wrote an op-ed in [U.S. News and World Report](#) about Mick Zais--recently nominated to become the US Department of Education's deputy secretary--and the importance of early childhood education on development.

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### Education Quality

Elaine Weiss, the former national coordinator for the Broader, Bolder Approach to Education, and Christopher T. Cross, former US assistant secretary of education, [wrote a commentary for Education Week](#) breaking down the effects of the Trump administration's proposed education budget cuts for marginalized children.

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### Unemployment

[Slate's Rebecca Gale examines](#) current literature about the intersection of the current economy, motherhood and unemployment and access to child care.

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### Inclusion

[Education Week's Christina Samuels](#) discusses new analysis that indicates a negative correlation between the number of students with disabilities in a classroom and the time spent teaching.

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### Media Literacy

[New America's Lisa Guernsey discusses](#) the impact of media literacy through childhood and adolescence, and the benefits of starting media literacy in early education.

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## News From The States

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### Arizona

- [The Arizona Daily Star reports](#) that only 34% of voters supported Tucson's Proposition 204--known as Strong Start Tucson--that proposed increasing the city sales tax to pay for preschool vouchers.
  - [News 4 Tucson](#) reports findings from Salud America! showing that 80% of Latino children have fewer resources for nutrition, exercise and early childhood learning, particularly pre-k.
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## California

- [Sarah Favot with The 74 highlights](#) the gubernatorial platforms around education in the California governor's race, including those calling for investments to early childhood.
  - [Mario Koran](#) for the *Voice of San Diego* and *New America* writes about how San Diego Unified sends parents to a collections agency if they don't pay their child's school bus fees on time.
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## Colorado

- [The 74 chronicles](#) US Representative Jared Polis and his education platform in the Colorado governor race.
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## Florida

- Ryan McKinnon writes for the [Herald Tribune](#) about the state's disbursement formula for its \$600 million in school readiness funds.
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## Georgia

- [Greg Bluestein from the Atlanta Journal-Constitution reports](#) on Democratic gubernatorial candidate Stacey Abrams' proposal of a program to make quality child care more affordable through a new scholarship, tax credits for teachers in early childhood jobs, and an initiative to expand child care options.
  - [WABE reports](#) on the ATL ACCESS map, which details child care options across the five-county metro Atlanta region. Partners in the project included Reinvestment Fund, the Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students (GEEARS), the Metro Atlanta Chamber and Learn4Life
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## Illinois

- [Sarah Sparks writes for Education Week](#) on new research from Stanford University researchers about how Chicago students are making gains at a rate faster than their peers across the country.
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## Indiana

- [The Republic](#) chronicles how the recent expansion to the state's On My Way Pre-K program is supporting families in Bartholomew County.
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## Louisiana

- The Louisiana Department of Education debuted its interactive online tool that helps find and assess schools and child care centers, the Louisiana School Finder, [reports KLFY Newsroom](#).
  - The vice president for program and workforce development and director of education and workforce development for the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry penned an [op-ed in The Times](#) about the business need for quality child care.
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## Michigan

- The Kresge Foundation and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation announced "Hope Starts

Here: Detroit's Early Childhood Partnership framework"-a 10-year, \$50 million plan to improve early childhood education and services, [reports The Detroit News](#).

- [The Detroit Free Press](#) covers the development of the Detroit Parent Collective that is a mix of a co-working space and a cooperative preschool.
- [Michigan Radio](#) featured an interview with Robin Bozek, the executive director of the Michigan Head Start Association, about the 11 Head Start centers closing in Southwest Detroit and her belief in the strength of the infrastructure for the program in the state.

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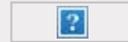
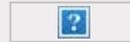
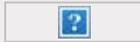
## New Mexico

- [The Albuquerque Journal](#) covers the recommendation of a recent report by the Legislative Finance Committee to expand pre-kindergarten programs in the state to help with the achievement gap.

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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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