



## National Policy Digest

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### Highlights

#### Enrollment in State Preschool Programs Increased

The National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) released the latest edition of its [annual report](#) that scores state-funded preschool programs on their efforts to increase access, funding and quality. This year's "State of Preschool Yearbook" identified areas of growth in states across the country and made recommendations for how they could make improvements to the quality of their preschool programs, as well as enrollment. In addition, there is a [special report](#) on state policies supporting young dual language learners. Read more from [Education Week, the74](#) and [First Five Years Fund](#). Report author W. Steven Barnett wrote an op-ed with Mark Shriver for [CNN](#), discussing the status of pre-k in the US compared to other developed nations.

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## Federal Updates

### Child Care and Development Block Grant

The recently approved omnibus spending package included a provision to increase funding for the Child Care Development Block Grants (CCDBG) program to \$5.226 billion. There were also increases for Early Head Start/Head Start, Child Care Means Parents in School, IDEA Part B Preschool Grants and IDEA Part C Grants for Infants and Families. The Preschool Development Grants were continued for another year at \$250 million and \$5 million were allocated to Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health. Check out a [chart with specifics](#) about the funding increases.

- Media coverage of the omnibus includes [The Hill](#), [The New York Times](#), and [The Chronicle of Social Change](#).
- Read statements from [National Women's Law Center](#), [First Five Years Fund](#), [National Head Start Association](#), [Center for Law and Social Policy](#), [ZERO TO THREE](#) and the [National Association for the Education of Young Children](#). [New America](#) also profiled the increases and [NWLC](#) celebrated the victory.
- The child care and early learning coalition celebrated the historic win with Senators Patty Murray, Elizabeth Warren, Chuck Schumer and Representative Rosa DeLauro on Capitol Hill. [Read more from NWLC](#).

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### US Census

[The US Department of Commerce announced](#) that the 2020 decennial census questionnaire will include a question on citizen status following a request from the Department of Justice. The state of California along with at least 13 other states are suing the administration on the grounds that it would reduce the number of Americans that are counted and violate the constitution. Advocacy and legal rights groups argue this would have a negative impact on children and families that rely on government services which has funding based on census data. Read more from [The New York Times](#) and [Vox Media](#) as well as [Center for Law and Social Policy](#).

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### Work Requirements

The administration released an [executive order](#) directing cabinet departments to develop policies for means-tested aid programs that would require work requirements for participants as a strategy for moving them off of assistance and out of poverty. Research and advocacy organizations such as the [Urban Institute](#), [Center for Law and Social Policy](#) and [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities](#) have outlined what is already known about this strategy and argue that it is an ineffective solution. Urban Institute's Heather Hahn writes "Enacting work requirements could undermine the employment and skill-development goals of the workforce development system while denying basic health care and food to adults and children who need it."

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## Policy Trends & Analysis

### Workforce

The Center for the Study of Child Care Employment published ["The Workforce Data Deficit: Who It Harms and How It Can Be Overcome"](#) that advocates for funding workforce data collection.

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## Opioid Crisis

The American Academy of Pediatrics and Casey Family Programs released a series of state and national fact sheets that stress the effect of the opioid crisis on children and families across the country. ["America's Opioid Crisis: The Unseen Impact on Children"](#) also provides state and federal policy solutions for better helping children and families heal.

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## Improving Instructional Practice

The Center on Enhancing Early Learning Outcomes released a memo, ["Strategies to Improve Instructional Practice in Early Childhood Settings,"](#) which examines national research on best practices that have been shown to improve results on the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) with a focus on research that impacts instruction and is applicable to teachers in both school and community-based settings. The memo concludes by outlining promising policy approaches as well as considerations and next steps for policymakers.

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## State Policy

NWLC released its annual report ["Governors' 2018 State of the State Addresses: Mentions of Early Care and Education,"](#) in which a total of 23 governors (14 Republicans and 9 Democrats) mentioned early childhood.

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## Preschool

- Brookings's senior fellow Grover "Russ" Whitehurst published a new report, ["What is the market price of daycare and preschool?"](#) that highlights parent spending for center-based daycare and preschool for their young children. Major findings for the country include a median spending of \$8,320 a year in care, and that spending goes up with an increase of family income and education.
  - [Emily Workman writes for New America](#) discussing long-term impacts of early education policy, limitations in research and the resulting effect on changes in early education and policy.
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## New Research

### School Patterns

A new study in [Child Development](#) uses data from cohorts of the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study to examine whether associations between preschool participation and children's academic and behavioral outcomes change from 1998-2010. Overall, the study found consistencies between cohorts with preschool being associated with academic outcomes, and also negatively associated with behavioral outcomes both at school entry and as children progress through school.

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## Health in Pregnant Mothers

[The American Journal of Preventive Medicine published](#) new research that determined poorer childhood cognition occurred when pregnant women or their offspring consumed more added sugars in their diet.

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## News and Resources

### Family Homelessness

The first three of eight new modules on homelessness have been published on the Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center. These modules help professionals identify families experiencing homelessness, review federal regulations for different government programs and conduct community outreach.

- Module 1: [Overview of Family Homelessness](#)
- Module 2: [Understanding Family Homelessness](#)
- Module 3: [Understanding the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act's Definition of "Homeless"](#)

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### Literacy

[The New York Times highlights](#) an article reporting that reading aloud to young children has positive effects for their attention and behavior.

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## News From The States

[CA](#) | [IL](#) | [LA](#) | [MI](#) | [MN](#) | [NH](#) | [NJ](#) | [WA](#) | [DC](#) |

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### California

- [Edsource discusses](#) the massive increase of federal child care funding California will receive, which will enable thousands of children to get access to subsidized child care.
- A teacher in California is creating a new way for children in early learning education to learn math, [reports Education Week](#).

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### Illinois

- [The Chicago Tribune discusses](#) an additional \$60 million to be allocated for an increase in teacher salary and restore a special education model for Chicago Public Schools.

- [KWQC news reports](#) on Fight Crime Invest in Kids, a Chicago organization, endorsing home visiting and helping parents to curb opioid addiction in parents.

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## Louisiana

- [The Times-Picayune publishes](#) an editorial discussing making preschool a priority for Louisiana legislators.

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## Michigan

- [Ionia Sentinel-Standard reports](#) on an influx of \$70 million in federal money to put more struggling families' children into child care programs.
- Benefitting teachers in the Lansing area, a new pre-k initiative was launched in April to give students and teachers new classrooms and tools, [reports WILX 10](#).

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## Minnesota

- Early childhood education programs have experienced a recent growth in Minnesota, however, the [Duluth News Tribune highlights](#) persistent gaps to overcome familial challenges.
- [The Star Tribune discusses](#) a recent \$50 million commitment to prekindergarten and continuing policy support for an investment in the states' youngest learners.

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## New Hampshire

- [The Concord Monitor reports](#) on the passing of a bill aimed to introduce play-based education standards to the state.

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## New Jersey

- [The New Jersey Spotlight focuses](#) on childhood trauma in an op-ed by Marjorie Paloma with the Robert Wood Johnson Fund aimed at exposing the long-term effects of traumatic stress in childhood and changing policy.

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## Washington

- [The Seattle Times reports](#) on Mayor Jenny Durkan's ballot measure to expand Seattle education, which includes allocating funding for preschool.

- New regulations in Washington State are aimed at improving child care centers and people who run them in Washington, [reports KNKX-FM](#).

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## Washington, DC

- A new study from the Urban Institute finds large pay gaps in early childhood care employees in Washington DC, [according to Education Week](#).

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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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