



## EARLY LEARNING | LEADING MINDS

Strong Start Kentucky Coalition  
**2018 POLICY PRIORITIES**

### INVEST in **high-quality** early learning environments for more Kentucky children and their families

#### **GOALS:**

*Learning that builds the foundation for future success.*

Encourage strong learning between teachers and students, as well as more support for specialized needs of children and their families.

*Help more families enter and stay in the workforce.*

Increase opportunities for more young children to learn in high-quality, full-day settings in all areas of Kentucky.

#### **PRIORITIES:**

- Increase *per-child funding* for preschool to at least \$8800 for 3- and 4-year olds with special needs and \$4900 for 4-year olds from low-income families (2017 KY ECE Cost of Quality Study).
- Increase *reimbursement rates and incentives* for serving infants, toddlers & young children in *high-quality* child care centers.
- Increase *eligibility* for public preschool and child care assistance from 160% toward 200% of the federal poverty level, maintaining alignment in eligibility levels across the two programs.
- Maintain grant funding to encourage *partnerships, expansion & innovation* between public preschool and child care centers.



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### **EXPAND** voluntary home visiting that works

**GOAL:**

*Healthy brain development in the earliest years.*

Support more families in giving babies and toddlers a safe, nurturing home environment - an investment with immediate returns to child and maternal health, reduction in child maltreatment, and increased family self-sufficiency.

**PRIORITY:**

- Increase funding to HANDS, KY's evidence-based, voluntary home visiting program, to support more families with more than one child and until the age of 3.

### **About the Strong Start Kentucky Coalition**

The Strong Start Kentucky coalition unites a diverse array of Kentuckians through shared goals to strengthen early care and learning for Kentucky children from birth through third grade.

The Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence serves as convener to the coalition, which meets quarterly and adopts annual policy priorities.

**Learn more and to join:** [prichardcommittee.org/strongstartky/](http://prichardcommittee.org/strongstartky/)