

Top 5 Asks in 5 Minutes

The Top 5 Asks in Early Childhood Your Legislator Should Be Hearing About



Strong Start KY
The Prichard Committee



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Building a Groundswell for a Big Bold Future

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Ask One: The Budget

Child Care Needs Help: Avoid the Cliff!

- Absent in current state budget proposals are new General Fund resources for child care.
- The child care sector has benefited from important federal dollars recently, but those resources are not lasting revenue streams.
- Most troubling, the potential for a sudden drop off in which working families can receive resources from the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) and how much CCAP can pay is cause for concern for parents and Kentucky's economy.
- Leaders must act to ensure that the state budget **does not forget investments** in the child care sector, but rather **stabilizes the child care and early learning sector well into the future.**





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Ask Two: Support The Employee Child Care Assistance Partnership

Child Care: The Workforce Behind The Workforce

Employee Child Care Assistance Partnership (HB 499)

- Addressing Kentucky's child care crisis and low workforce participation will require multiple bold policy proposals, but private sector engagement and investment must be part of the solution.
- HB 499 offers an innovative approach to tackling these challenges by encouraging employers to assist employees with the cost of child care.
- Kentucky employers, employees, and qualified child care providers partner together and submit contractual agreements to the Cabinet for Health and Family Services. The Cabinet then reviews the agreement and, if it the agreement qualifies, agrees to match the employer contribution using state funds up to 100 percent of the cost of care.





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Ask Three: A Mixed-Delivery Model for Pre-K

Mixed-Delivery for Pre-K is Essential!

- Governor Beshear (D) and House Education Committee Chair Regina Huff (R) each signaled support for expanded Pre-K services for Kentucky's four-year-olds.
- It is critical to share with legislators the importance of a mixed-delivery model for Pre-K.
- Public-private partnerships among early learning centers and public school districts provide an efficient and resourceful path forward for expanded Pre-K for Kentucky's children.
- States like Maryland, Michigan, and West Virginia each expanded Pre-K utilizing their pre-existing early childhood infrastructure.
- It is critical that Kentucky does the same to strengthen our early childhood ecosystem.





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Ask Four: Strengthen Early Education in Grades K-3

Pass The Read to Succeed Act (SB 9 and HB 226)

The Read to Succeed Act provides kids, their parents, and their teachers a system of supports to engage all students in learning to read at a proficient level by the close of third grade, ensures quality instruction by highly trained teachers, and includes parents to ensure that they are provided with the information they need to nurture young readers both at home and at school.



Senator Steven West (R) is the sponsor of Senate Bill 9, The Read to Succeed Act.



Representative James Tipton (R) is the sponsor of House Bill 226, Companion Bill to Senate Bill 9, The Read to Succeed Act.





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Ask 5: Provide State Funding for Full-Day Kindergarten

Full Day Kindergarten

- Both the Governor's Budget and House Republican Budget included funding for full-day kindergarten state funding.
- We are awaiting the Senate's budget proposal.
- Full day Kindergarten funding allows local districts greater local control in using freed local funding for their district's needs.
- As an example, Owensboro Public Schools and Daviess County Public Schools intend to reappropriate such funding to increase preschool opportunities in their districts.

