



Early Learning and Child Care

- After 14 years of spending cuts to education, Gov. Beshear’s [Education First plan](#) calls for universal pre-K for all Kentucky families and a 5% pay raise for all school staff.
- The Governor’s [latest budget proposal](#) called for a historic investment in the commonwealth’s youngest learners by providing universal preschool for all 4-year-olds and full-day kindergarten for every Kentucky child.
- In June 2021, Gov. Beshear’s administration provided more than \$763 million in federal funds to provide relief for child care providers in the commonwealth that were financially impacted by the global pandemic.
- Those child care funds go to support families in two different ways.
 - ◇ The largest part of the funding – more than \$470 million – is for sustainability payments that will be distributed to childcare providers throughout the state.
 - ◇ The second stream of funding, \$293 million from the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) is slightly more flexible and has been designated for four specific purposes:
 - » increasing provider payments;
 - » improving payment policies;
 - » increasing wages for early educators and family child care homes; and
 - » increasing the number of quality child care options for underserved populations.
- Here is a breakdown of recommended Kentucky projects and costs through this funding stream:
 - ◇ Continuation of the Public-School Preschool Partnership Program for next three school years: \$30 million. [Release](#);
 - ◇ Increase in Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) reimbursement during the length of the funding period: \$194 million;
 - ◇ Pilot for CCAP contracts for infant and toddler care throughout the state: \$18.9 million;
 - ◇ Facility repair grants for childcare programs currently in operation: \$20 million;
 - ◇ Training academies for Kentucky credentialed trainers: \$150,000;
 - ◇ Kentucky apprenticeship program funding: \$2 million;
 - ◇ Increased contributions to the Kentucky Early Childhood Scholarship Program: \$7 million. [Release](#);
 - ◇ Additional start-up grants for family child care homes (over three years): \$500,000;
 - ◇ Business partnership start-up funds (over three years): \$2 million;
 - ◇ Matching start-up grants for child care programs in “deserts” (over three years): \$4 million; and
 - ◇ Technology system upgrades to connect all child care data systems: \$14.7 million.
- Gov. Beshear, Lt. Gov. Coleman Announce Creation of Commonwealth Education Continuum. [Release](#)
- Vetoed Anti-Education Bills. [Release](#)

- Better Kentucky Plan directing \$127M to fund much-needed school construction projects. [Release](#)
- Called for independent review of Kentucky State University finances. [Release](#)
- \$75 million awarded to school districts to Upgrade Vocational Education Centers. [Release](#)
- Awarded a \$750K grant to help 130+ Kentucky high school students earn information technology certification. [Release](#)
- Appointed eight members to Kentucky State University board of regents. [Release](#)
- Invited graduating Jefferson County Public Schools seniors to 'Everybody Counts' signing day. [Release](#)
- Announced free ACT retake day. [Release](#)
- Presented more than \$360,000 to support safety, accessibility at Eastern Kentucky University. [Release](#)
- Announced nearly \$8 million in settlement funds to support early childhood education. [Release](#)
- Kentucky Awarded Nearly \$36 million to get more kids kindergarten-ready. [Release](#)