

Understanding the Impact of COVID-19 on Early Care and Education in Nebraska

When Nebraska legislators reconvened in July, Senator John Stinner (R), chair of the Appropriations Committee and a 2016 Early Learning Fellow, introduced a resolution to take a comprehensive look at the effect of the public health crisis on the state's early care and education workforce and system. In addition to examining the fiscal and economic impact of COVID-19 on early educators and care providers, [LR 390](#) would require a study of federal and state investments and expenditures in Nebraska's early care and education system. The study would identify gaps between current investments and the total investments needed to fully fund a high-quality early care and education system, as well as financing options to close funding gaps.



Stinner says, "My experience has taught me that there is a significant skills gap in early childhood workforce development, which is crucial for our children becoming successful in school, life, the workforce, and ultimately in becoming a lifelong learner. LR390 is an important continuation of the [Buffett Institute's Early Childhood Workforce Development Program](#) to define and identify the need for Nebraska's investment in early childhood workforce development, especially in the midst of the global COVID-19 pandemic."

New York Aims to Grow Child Care Workforce Through Loan Forgiveness

Legislators in New York state are considering [legislation](#) to expand loan forgiveness to child care providers who have earned an undergraduate or graduate degree from a two- or four-year in-state school. If enacted, applicants would be eligible for up to \$10,000 in loan forgiveness per year for up to four years, not exceeding the applicant's total student loan debt.

The bill's sponsor and 2013 Early Learning Fellow, Assemblywoman Michaelle Solages (D), stated, "State legislatures must look for innovative ways to encourage educators to pursue careers in early childhood education. Providing a child with a strong foundation for intellectual and social development is a cost-effective strategy for promoting economic growth. Many child care workers pay back exorbitant amounts in student loans while earning low wages, deterring many people from entering the field. Establishing a loan forgiveness program would help to incentivize future educators to specialize in early learning."



Announcing NCSL Base Camp 2020

COVID-19, the economy, systemic racism, high-stakes elections. For a year unlike any other, you need a plan unlike any other. Join us online Sept. 15-17 for [NCSL Base Camp 2020](#), where national thought leaders and policy experts join with states to map the way forward.

NCSL Base Camp is a three-day online experience providing unique opportunities to engage with national thought leaders, ask burning questions and walk away with new ideas covering every angle of state policy.

[Register for NCSL Base Camp 2020](#)

COMING SOON! Advanced Learning Series for Early Learning Fellows Alumni

Next month NCSL will kick off a series of online learning opportunities, offered exclusively to alumni of the Early Learning Fellows program. In this five-part series, we will examine the impact of race in the early care and education system. Join your fellow alumni to learn from each other, nationally recognized experts and NCSL staff about the impact of inequities on young children's development and to explore potential solutions to mitigate disparate outcomes.

Stay tuned for more details!

Are you participating in state activities that you would like to share? Let us know so we can include them in the next Legislative Corner. Email alison.may@ncsl.org.