



Child Care and Early Education

2013 Legislative Action

Summary of Enacted Legislation by State

Alabama

SB 288, Chapter 255: Appropriates Children First Trust Funds for various early childhood programs and services. Requires the Department of Children's Affairs to leverage and invest in viable early childhood programs. Requires a report to the Legislature and Children's Policy Council.

HB 666, Chapter 328: Appropriates state funding to Morgan County to implement the Starting Strong Pre-K Initiative in FY 2014 through 2016.

Arizona

SB 1447, Chapter 251: Revises the state education finance formula to allow charter schools to provide preschool for children with disabilities, establish per-pupil funding and require the State Board of Education to allocate 10 percent of federal funds to charter schools to administer preschool. Requires school districts to conduct evaluation, recommend children's placements into the program prior to admitting students and allow schools to admit students early.

HB 2529, Chapter 151: Allows child care providers with pending background checks to continue providing care if providers can certify they do not currently have a pending investigation or substantiated report of abuse or neglect. Requires the state to publicly report on substantiated cases and results of investigations. Prohibits the state from releasing identifying information about anyone other than the perpetrator.

Arkansas

SB 210, Act 1369: Appropriates funding to the Department of Human Services, Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education, for general expenditures, operations and grants.

SB 491, Act 528: Requires the State Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board, Department of Health and Department of Human Services to implement voluntary home visiting services to promote healthy prenatal births to expectant parents or parents with children from birth up to kindergarten age. Prohibits the state from compelling parents to participate in services or hindering their ability to withdraw from a program or consider a parent's withdrawal grounds for child welfare investigations. Establishes definitions for evidence-based and promising practice models. Requires the state to use at least 90 percent of funding toward evidence-based and promising practice models. Excludes IDEA Part C early intervention, one-time home visiting services, and medical or protective services from the definition of home visiting. Requires state agencies to develop protocols for sharing and reporting program data and a common contract format for providers. Requires the state to explore including home visiting data in health-based, education-based or child welfare-based statewide longitudinal data systems and make recommendations to the General Assembly about whether to pursue interagency memoranda of understanding for data sharing. Requires the state to update the home visiting measurement plan every five years and requires programs that receive state funding to submit data annually.

SB 518, Act 1070: Adds the director of the Child Care and Early Childhood Education Division to the membership of the Professional Licensure Standards Board. Allows teachers with teaching credentials in birth-to-kindergarten or kindergarten to sixth grades to be appointed to the board.

SB 756, Act 697: Allows state early literacy grant recipients to partner with pediatricians and the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education to promote early literacy.

HB 1111, Act 62: Appropriates state funding to the Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board to operate the Healthy Families America Home Visiting Program.

HB 1363, Act 403: Adds a representative from the Arkansas Association of Colleges for Teacher Education to the membership of the State Early Childhood Commission.

HB 1894, Act 1159: Requires licensed child care facilities and school districts to file floor plans with local emergency management offices.

HB 2095, Act 1288: Requires school districts to review preschool through 12th grade student transportation plans and recommend guidelines for maximum transportation time.

California

AB 86, Chapter 48: Requires the state to implement a simplified, flat monthly family fee structure for subsidized early childhood programs. Extends the current child care assistance income eligibility limit (70 percent of the state median income) for another year. Extends the statutory authority of San Francisco and San Mateo counties to continue to implement child care assistance pilot programs and use unspent funds to create additional child care slots for families whose incomes would otherwise exceed eligibility limits.

SB 201, Chapter 478: Authorizes the state to adopt and align basic instructional materials for kindergarten through eighth grades by 2015 and requires publishers to pay fees to offset costs.

AB 241, Chapter 374: Regulates work hours and overtime compensation for license-exempt child care providers who provide services under the federal CCDF or state TANF program.

SB 252, Chapter 563: Allows pregnant women to fulfill welfare-to-work requirements by participating in an approved state or federal voluntary maternal, infant, and early childhood home visiting program (subject to the state's approval from the federal government).

AB 260, Chapter 731: Allows the City and County of San Francisco to continue to implement the pilot child care subsidy plan.

AB 274, Chapter 733: Allows child care state contractors to submit attendance records electronically. Allows the state to make direct deposit payments to contractors. Allows parents to verify attendance records in either electronic or original format.

AB 290, Chapter 734: Requires child care directors and teachers to complete nutrition training as part of a preventive health practices course.

SB 555, Chapter 685: Requires the state to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate information to parents who receive IDEA Part C early intervention services.

SB 602, Chapter 60: Removes the requirements that the state must select early childhood contractors based on their nonprofit status and counties must return unspent contractor funds.

AB 812, Chapter 249: Revises the timeline by which the State Department of Education must issue notifications regarding child care licensing violations or contract terminations. Allows the state to conduct internal reviews instead of independent appeals in related matters.

Colorado

SB 1, Chapter 381: Enacts the Working Families Economic Opportunity Act of 2013 by creating a permanent refundable state child tax credit equal to up to 30 percent of the federal credit. Allows taxpayers who are eligible but are not claiming the federal credit to claim the state credit.

SB 89 and **SB 100**, Chapters 422 and 433: Appropriates state funding to the Nurse-Home Visitor Program in the Department of Public Health and Environment.

SB 213, Chapter 248: Creates a new state education finance formula, implementation of which is conditional upon passage of a statewide ballot measure. Expands the Colorado Preschool Program (CPP) and allows school districts to count enrolled students as half-day pupils. Allows schools to enroll and count kindergarten students as full-day pupils. Requires schools to submit administration and operational plans to implement the CPP, and plans to coordinate with existing family support services.

SB 260, Chapter 236: Adds 3,200 prekindergarten slots to the CPP annually, starting in FY 2013-14. Allows school districts to use preschool funding to provide full-day kindergarten as needed. Appropriates funding for implementation of the K-third grade READ Act of 2012.

HB 1007, Chapter 367: Re-establishes the School Readiness Legislative Commission that is charged with studying and making recommendations to the legislature regarding school readiness, early childhood health, parental involvement and family support.

HB 1084, Chapter 29: Allows the state to issue federal employee identification numbers to child care facilities as part of licensing renewal. Requires only newly hired employees to undergo criminal background checks.

HB 1117, Chapter 169: Moves the state home visiting program and the Children's Trust Fund from the Department of Public Health and Environment to the Department of Human Services (DHS) to improve program coordination and better leverage public-private funding. Relocates the Early Childhood Leadership Council (ECLC) from the governor's office to DHS and extends the ECLC to 2018.

HB 1180 and **HB 1181**, Chapters 200 and 74: Requires unexpended and unencumbered tobacco settlement funds to transfer to the cash fund of the tobacco settlement account for state home visiting services instead of to the general fund.

HB 1291, Chapter 363: Creates the Infant and Toddler Quality Grant Program to provide tiered reimbursements to high-quality programs, increase the number of low-income infants and toddlers in high quality settings and promote voluntary parent involvement. Defines high-quality programs as those that rank in the top two ratings of the state Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS), are accredited by a state-approved body or are home- or center-based Early Head Start programs.

Connecticut

SB 874, Public Act 20: Revises the composition of the State Interagency Birth-to-Three Coordinating Council to include the state coordinators of Education for Homeless Children and Youth and Early Childhood Special Education.

SB 887, Public Act 50: Extends child care assistance eligibility to parents who take unpaid leave from work because of the birth or impending birth of a child.

SB 972, Public Act 178: Requires the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) to recommend ways to improve home visiting services, develop a common referral process, establish core competencies and training for home visitors, and develop program standards and monitor outcomes. Requires the OEC to implement a public education campaign on children's mental, emotional and behavioral health. (Note: In 2013, the governor also issued Executive Order 35 to designate the OEC as the lead agency to administer statewide early childhood programs, services and funding).

SB 1002, Public Act 64: Establishes community-based settings to encourage local schools to collaborate with community partners to deliver comprehensive family and children services, including child care, early education and parent education.

SB 1097, Public Act 245: Requires the Department of Education to develop preschool-to-kindergarten transition plans with specific oral language and pre-literacy components.

HB 6292, Public Act 133: Requires teaching candidates to complete early childhood social and emotional development training, including instruction on how to conduct social and emotional assessments and apply early intervention strategies.

HB 6346, Public Act 40: Authorizes the Department of Social Services to disclose non-identifiable personal information of child care providers as part of the state's investigations of child care subsidy fraud.

HB 6506, Public Act 16: Continues state financial assistance for child care centers that previously entered into a loan agreement with the state and have loans guaranteed by the state.

Florida

SB 1076, Chapter 27: Requires school districts to provide digital instructional materials to prekindergarten to 12th grade students with disabilities.

HB 7165, Chapter 252: Adds the Office of Early Learning (OEL) to the state Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice. Requires the OEL to implement a statewide Voluntary Prekindergarten Program (VPK) provider contract, a professional development plan for VPK instructors, integrate VPK early learning domains such as self-regulation into health and safety standards for license-exempt early learning provider; implement curriculum that are developmentally appropriate, research-based and engage parents as children's first teachers. Requires the OEL and Commissioner of Education to submit a reorganization plan to the governor and Legislature. Allows the OEL to administer scholarships through the Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (TEACH) program to increase retention of the early learning workforce.

Georgia

HB 106, Act 309: Appropriates state funding to extend the state pre-K school year from 170 days to 180 days.

HB 350, Act 126: Establishes definitions and new provisions for licensed child care provider criminal background checks. Requires all personnel to undergo fingerprint checks every five years. Requires directors to review preliminary record checks of provisional employees and determine if such employees should be allowed to be with children. Allows the state to revoke licenses from centers that fail to comply and that employ people who have unsatisfactory preliminary record checks.

HB 354, Act 32: Allows the Department of Early Care and Learning to recommend child care centers to carry liability insurance coverage. Requires programs that choose not to acquire liability insurance to publicly post that fact, notify parents in writing and obtain written parent acknowledgment.

Hawaii

SB 400, Act 71: Requires all licensed child care facilities, including family child care centers, to implement a written safe sleep policy to prevent sudden infant death syndrome.

HB 908, Act 91: Establishes a statewide hospital-based early identification and home visiting program in the Department of Health. Outlines the goals of the program as identifying families of newborns at risk for poor birth outcomes, promoting healthy child development and strengthening families. Requires the program to provide universal screening of newborns and refer high-risk families to evidence-based home visiting programs. Appropriates tobacco settlement funds to the Department of Health to administer the program.

SB 1084: Proposes a constitutional amendment to allow the Legislature to appropriate public funds for private early childhood programs.

SB 1093, Act 169: Designates the Preschool Open Doors program in the Department of Human Services as the statewide voluntary school readiness program for 4-year-olds. Requires providers to conduct school readiness assessments, give priority to children from low- and moderate-income families, and allow enrollment of 4-year-olds who are not age-eligible for kindergarten.

SB 1106, Act 140: Exempts child care programs licensed by the U.S. Department of Defense and the State Council on Private Schools from state licensing as long as such programs can prove their standards meet or exceed state licensing standards.

HR 90 and **HCR 119**: Conducts a study to determine the feasibility of using social impact bonds to fund various early care and education programs.

Illinois

SB 626, Public Act 41: Adds social and emotional development to the definition of ‘developmental delay’ as it pertains to early intervention services for infants and toddlers. Requires services to be research-based. Prohibits private insurance payments made by families under the Early Intervention Services Systems Act (federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Part C) from negatively affecting the outcomes of future claims or from serving as a basis for increasing insurance premiums.

SB 1191, Public Act 82: Requires the state to adopt rules to ensure that child care facilities without internet access have access to safety notifications from the Department of Public Health.

SB 1599, Public Act 570: Allows the Department of Children and Family Services to access comprehensive state and federal criminal history background information on child care employees and volunteers.

Indiana

SB 305, Public Law 225: Requires the interim committee on child care to study and make recommendations regarding due process for child care providers. Prohibits providers from receiving state child care voucher payments if s/he has been convicted of welfare fraud. Requires the state to decertify providers to fail to meet sanitation and safe sleeping standards, fail to maintain, document and provide parents with written discipline policy and actions on each child; and fail to allow parents to make unscheduled to the facility.

HB 1001, Public Law 205: Requires the State Early Learning Advisory Committee to conduct periodic statewide needs assessments to review the quality and availability of high-quality prekindergarten programs, identify collaboration opportunities among federal and state programs, and assess the effectiveness of higher education institutions in early educator training. Establishes the Early Education Matching Grant Program to provide legislative appropriations, gifts and interest accrued from state investments to early childhood programs and services targeted at low-income children. Allows state agencies to establish unique student numbers, share information, and track the growth and development of students in the grant program. Requires participating providers to provide at least 180 days of programming annually, administer the kindergarten readiness assessment, and include a parental involvement component in service delivery.

HB 1003, Public Law 211: Expands the School Choice Scholarship Program by increasing income eligibility, adding kindergarteners, extending eligibility to students with disabilities, extending eligibility to siblings of current scholarship recipients, and allowing students to remain eligible after meeting initial eligibility. Removes the requirement that students must have been previously enrolled in a public school for one year to be eligible for the scholarship. Expands the scholarship tax credit program and allows taxpayers to carry the credits forward.

HB 1004, Public Law 267: Establishes the Early Education Evaluation Program and requires the state to conduct an evaluation study and make recommendations regarding the school readiness of low-income children enrolled in programs with a state QRIS rating of three or four. Requires the state to select participating providers and track results of participating students. Requires the State Early Learning Advisory Committee to conduct statewide needs assessments to review the quality and availability of high-quality prekindergarten programs, identify collaboration and coordination opportunities among federal and state programs, and assess the effectiveness of higher education institutions in early educator training.

HB 1494, Public Law 278: Requires child care employees, volunteers, and applicants for licensure to undergo national criminal history background checks. Requires state agencies to share results with the Division of Family Resources. Revises the list of criminal actions as they relate to the application, denial and revocation of licenses or registration. Revises eligibility requirements of child care providers who receive voucher payments from the state (as related to background checks).

Iowa

HF 351, Chapter 78: Considers 4-year-olds who are enrolled in the state preschool program to be of compulsory attendance age unless parents choose to remove their children from enrollment.

Kansas

HB 2261, Chapter 121: Allows school districts to carry over to the following school year unspent Preschool-Aged At-Risk Education Funds.

Kentucky

SB 18 and **HB 220**, Chapters 102 and 86: Requires school districts to offer developmentally appropriate half-day preschool to at-risk 4-year-olds and 3- and 4-year-olds with disabilities by 2017, and 4-year-olds who are at risk for educational failure (based on existing statute) thereafter.

SB 83, Chapter 18: Establishes the Office for Education and Workforce Statistics and requires the Early Childhood Advisory Council to work with the new office to develop and implement the Kentucky Longitudinal Student Data System. Requires the office to link preschool through workforce data to inform education and workforce state policy.

HB 184, Chapter 57: Moves the Early Childhood Advisory Council and its executive director to the Office of the Governor. Requires the council to create a seamless professional development system for the early childhood workforce; expand programs that promote school readiness; and strengthen state, federal and local collaborations. Requires the council to implement comprehensive early learning standards in addition to engaging the business sector and local governments in early childhood development and education. Adds private sector leaders and state representatives to the council membership.

HB 366, Chapter 118: Requires the secretary of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services to appoint an advisory committee to review the state's perinatal care services and make recommendations to improve perinatal outcomes such as reduced infant mortality, preterm birth and substance abuse during pregnancy. Establishes definitions, criteria and goals for state home visiting programs. Requires programs to adhere to research-based or promising models and provide voluntary home visits for at-risk parents during the prenatal period or until the child's third birthday. Requires programs receiving state funding to meet the state definitions of home visiting by FY 2014; demonstrate their ability to work as part of a coordinated system; and report outcomes, numbers of families served and other relevant data to the state home visiting data system. Excludes from the definition services that have few or infrequent home visits, medically referred home visits, child protective services home visits, and visits conducted as part of the federal IDEA Part B or C programs.

Louisiana

SB 222, Act 179: Establishes a temporary Early Childhood Learning Working Group with national and state expertise in infants and toddlers, pediatric health, pediatric mental health, cognitive development, and social emotional development to recommend new licensing rules and regulations for early childhood learning centers. Requires early childhood learning centers and specialized providers to be licensed according to state-established licensing types.

HB 375, Act 417: Requires the state to implement a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary interagency system for infants and toddlers with disabilities (as part of the federal IDEA Part C). Outlines the membership and duties of the Louisiana State Interagency Coordinating Council for Early Steps.

HB 698, Act 406: Requires the Department of Children and Family Services to recommend to the Legislature ways to align the state school readiness tax credits to a new letter grade evaluation system of child care centers.

SCR 76: Directs state agencies to submit a plan to the Legislature to transfer the duties of the Department of Family Services to the Department of Education.

Maine

HP 27, Public Law 338: Implements the recommendations of the Government Oversight Committee and the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability regarding early intervention. Requires the commissioner of health and human services to appoint and supervise a director of Early Childhood Special Education. Outlines the powers, duties and responsibilities of the director.

Maryland

HB 99, Chapter 349: Prohibits importing, selling or offering for sale child care products that contain flame-retardant chemicals. Exempts products that are resold, offered for resale or distributed by private consumers for consumer use.

HB 227 and **SB 278**, Chapters 2 and 1: Creates the Maryland Employment Advancement Program to increase the state's job readiness and workforce development in sectors such as child care.

SB 413 and **HB 443**, Chapters 49 and 50: Requires adults who reside in informal child care homes to undergo criminal background checks and requires providers to provide clearance statements from the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) by the first day of employment. Allows state agencies to share state criminal records.

SB 415 and **HB 442**, Chapters 51 and 52: Requires the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to transmit weekly reports to the State Department of Education to allow for cross-referencing of various state criminal record databases. Prohibits registered sex offenders from entering onto the property of schools or informal child care facilities.

SB 832 and **HB 932**, Chapters 565 and 566: Establishes a child care provider dispute resolution workgroup and requires the workgroup to recommend ways to implement a uniform and timely process to resolve discrimination claims by child care providers.

Massachusetts

SB 1839, Chapter 77: Requires the Department of Children and Families to conduct sex offender registry and fingerprint checks through the state and national criminal history databases.

Minnesota

HF 630, Chapter 116: Establishes the Early Childhood Education Scholarship Program and eligibility guidelines for low-income children ages 3 to 5 whose families currently receive state or federal public assistance benefits. Prohibits scholarships (up to \$5,000 annually) from being counted as earned income for various public assistance programs. Allows the Commissioner of Education to prioritize scholarships based on geographic location and family income. Requires the commissioner to evaluate the program for its kindergarten readiness effect and requires programs to participate in the state QRIS with a three- or four-star rating by 2016. Appropriates \$23 million annually (FY 2014-2015) for the scholarship program. Allows the state to adopt a research-based early kindergarten entry policy to assess the readiness of children seeking to enter kindergarten early. Requires the full-day kindergarten school calendar to include 850 hours of instruction and allows school districts that offer free full-day kindergarten to use general funds to extend the school day for 3- and 4-year-olds.

SF 778, Chapter 128: Establishes the Family Child Care Providers Representation Act to allow family child care providers to form a statewide labor organization. Allows providers to be considered state employees for activities conducted as part of the collective bargaining process such as quality standards and rating systems, training reimbursements, benefits, or recruitment and retention of family child care providers. Prohibits providers from striking. Preserves provider rights to set parent fees. Prohibits a child care provider's membership status to affect his/her eligibility to contract with the state.

Mississippi

SB 2347, Chapter 495: Establishes the Literacy-Based Promotion Act and requires schools to provide intensive reading instruction to students in kindergarten through third grade who exhibit substantial reading deficiency. Requires schools to retain third graders who are not found to be proficient on reading assessments. Establishes the Mississippi Reading Panel to collaborate with the State Department of Education and recommend alternative assessments to determine third-grade promotion.

SB 2395, Chapter 493: Directs the State Department of Education to implement a phased-in prekindergarten program starting in 2014-15. Transfers duties and responsibilities of the Department of Human Services to the Department of Education and designates the program as the Early Learning Collaborative Act of 2013. Appropriates \$8 million to five to eight providers to serve 3,500 children during Phase I of the implementation, \$16 million to 10 to 15 providers to serve 7,000 children during Phase II, and \$33 million to 20 to 25 providers to serve 15,000 children during Phase III. Establishes provisions for providers to receive state reimbursements for programs and services. Requires teachers to hold a BA degree in early childhood education or a BA degree in any field with 12 credit hours of approved coursework. Requires the State Department of Education, upon adopting minimum rates of kindergarten readiness for purposes of funding providers, to be cognizant of children's unique development and the primacy of parents' role. Allows parents to submit children for the statewide kindergarten screening, regardless of his/her enrollment in a public school kindergarten program. Requires the program to undergo an independent evaluation and report to the Legislature and governor annually. Implements an early childhood provider tax credit that will be counted as the local match contribution (not to exceed \$1 million during any calendar year).

SB 2705, Chapter 903: Provides state funding to Tunica County to operate Head Start classes for 3- and 4-year-olds, provide transportation and provide vouchers to parents.

Missouri

HB 986 Revises provisions of the state's child care subsidy program to allow parents to continue receiving child care assistance if they have been receiving benefits for at least four months prior to implementation.

Montana

HB 2, Chapter 380: Raises the income eligibility limit for families participating in the state quality and rating improvement system (QRIS). Increases the child care reimbursement rate by 2 percent for providers who serve families in the Best Beginnings Child Care Scholarship Program.

HB 4, Chapter 294: Authorizes the remaining FY 2013 federal home visiting funds to the Public Health and Safety Division to continue into FY 2014.

Nebraska

LB 105. Requires child care licensing applicants to provide written proof of minimum liability insurance coverage of at least \$1,000 or be held in noncompliance. Allows licensed providers to use risk management pools to purchase insurance coverage or self-insure coverage.

LB 194 Reappropriates unexpended general funds to home visiting programs.

LB 410. Allows the state to provide early kindergarten enrollment at parents' if they can present proof that the child is capable of meeting kindergarten expectations and workload.¹ Allows the Early Childhood Education Endowment Cash Fund to continue to provide services for at-risk children even if they reach age 3 before the year ends.

LB 483 Establishes a pilot program in the Department of Corrections to provide evidence-based parent education programming, early childhood literacy, relationship skills development and family-focused reentry planning for incarcerated parents with young children.

LB 495. Appropriates state funding for an integrated early childhood to postsecondary student information system, a Center for Student Leadership and Extending Learning Act, early childhood education grants, the

Early Childhood Education Endowment Cash Fund, and the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.

LB 495A: Appropriates state funding for the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children and the Early Childhood Education Grant Program for at-risk children from birth to age 3.

LB 507: Adopts the state quality improvement and rating system (Step Up to Quality Child Care Act) and appropriates general funding for provider scholarships and incentive bonuses.

LB 507A: Enacts the Step Up to Quality Child Care Act. Requires state agencies to jointly establish rating criteria, assign ratings to participating programs, provide incentives and support, and oversee programs. Requires programs that receive more than \$500,000 in child care assistance state funding (in FY 2014) or more than \$250,000 (in FY 2015 and thereafter) to participate in the QRIS. Specifies conditions for star level achievement and rating and outlines procedures for programs that do not meet or violate licensing or quality provisions. Creates a statewide early childhood professional workforce registry. Requires the Department of Human Services to provide child care assistance to families with incomes up to 125 percent of the federal poverty level in FY 2013-14 (\$19,520 for a family of 3) and 130 percent thereafter.

LB 585: Allows local Learning Community Coordinating Councils to levy for funds to support early childhood education programs. Increases the council allowed levy amount to one-half cent on each \$100 of taxable property. Requires local councils to review enrollment and programs, make recommendations to improve academic achievement and diversity, and submit implementation and administration plans to ensure availability and accessibility of programs to children and families living in high-poverty areas.

Nevada

AB 79, Chapter 114: Statutorily establishes the Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council, allows the governor to appoint its members, and requires the Council to establish guidelines for evaluating children's school readiness.

AB 93, Chapter 118: Requires child care licensing applicants and facilities to notify the state within 24 hours after hiring new employees.

AB 109, Chapter 194: Determines the qualifications for licensed child care providers based on education, hands-on experience or college-level relevant coursework. Requires providers to complete at least 15 hours of training annually by January 2014 and 24 hours by 2016. Requires the state to establish a workforce registry to encourage professional development, approve and track provider training, and act as a statewide clearinghouse of information.

AB 259, Chapter 139: Changes the name of the P-16 Advisory Council to the P-20-W Advisory Council. Adds a council member who represents the early childhood field (birth through prekindergarten). Adds successful kindergarten transition and increased parent involvement to council objectives. Requires the council to develop and oversee a statewide longitudinal data system that links early childhood, K-12, postsecondary education and workforce data.

SB 486, Chapter 522: Appropriates general funding for a pilot school readiness assessment program for pre-K and kindergarten students and for state agency activities related to implementation of the statewide P-20-W longitudinal data system.

New Mexico

HB 2, Chapter 227: Appropriates state funding for home visiting technical assistance and capacity-building in high-risk areas.

SB 113, Chapter 228: Transfers general funds to the tobacco settlement permanent fund for the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) to administer various early care and education services in FY 2014, including \$2 million for tiered QRIS provider reimbursement; \$5.8 million to add prekindergarten slots, and \$2 million to expand enrollment of children and families in home visiting programs.

SB 247, Chapter 71: Exempts DCYF and the Department of Public Education from the state procurement code for services purchased to support early childhood development and school readiness. Allows the departments to allocate funding to pre-K programs without issuing contracts or intergovernmental agreements.

SB 297, Chapter 25: Broadens the scope of the Children's Trust Fund to include child maltreatment prevention and education. Expands the membership of the Board of Trustees to 13 and allows the board to leverage federal funds, private donations, bequests, and other public and private grants for various children's initiatives.

SB 365, Chapter 118: Requires DCYF to promulgate rules and establish statewide home visiting services using a standards-based program. Establishes definitions for home visiting standards, programs, services and a statewide system. Excludes from the home visiting definition Medicaid case management services and one-time or infrequent home visits and services conducted as part of the federal IDEA Part C or B services. Requires home visiting programs to achieve at least two of nine state-established objectives. Requires DCYF to work with the state Early Learning Advisory Council to increase data and information-sharing collaboration between state agencies, local governments and the private sector. Requires consultation with home visiting evaluation experts to develop indicators that measure objectives. Requires submission of an annual report to the governor, Legislature and Early Learning Advisory Council.

HM 75: Creates the J. Paul Taylor Early Childhood Task Force and defines its membership. Requires the task force to recommend ways to implement a statewide comprehensive plan to improve early childhood stakeholder collaboration; identify underserved at-risk infants and young children; develop a mental health plan for infants and children through age 8; identify how the early childhood system can be used for child abuse prevention; and promote evidence-based, community early childhood programs in the state by ensuring access to state data for early childhood research.

New York

SB 5770, Chapter 378: Extends the deadline by which child care workers who are not members of a labor organization must submit their membership dues.

AB 6881, Chapter 213: Requires parent requests to attend Preschool Special Education committee meetings be made in writing 72 hours in advance.

North Dakota

HB 1110, Chapter 387: Extends the time allowed for child care assistance eligibility decisions to be made from 15 days to 30 days from the date of application.

HB 1422, Chapter 376: Appropriates general funds to the Department of Human Services to administer incentive grants to child care providers and early childhood services specialists. Increases the eligibility limit

for child care assistance to 85 percent of the state median income. Allows the department to reduce copayments if funding allows. Exempts onsite employer-provided child care from state licensing requirements if enrollment does not exceed 10 children. Defines group child care as a child care program licensed to provide early childhood services for 30 or fewer children (previously 18 or fewer).

HB 1429, Chapter 149: Allows school districts to establish early childhood education programs using local tax revenues, state funds, federal funds and private gifts. Also see SB 2229, Act 150.

SB 2085, Chapter 375: Prohibits smoking on premises where early childhood services are provided. Specifies that the Early Childhood Services Advisory Board must notify the Department of Human Services of rules reviews.

SB 2229, Chapter 150: Allows school districts to establish early childhood education programs using local tax revenues, state funds, federal funds and private gifts. Requires the superintendent of public instruction to conduct a study to implement a statewide long-term early childhood care and early childhood education system. Allows the superintendent to appoint a committee, work groups, task forces and subcommittees to provide or obtain information required in conjunction with this study. Also see HB 1429, Act 149.

SB 2244, Chapter 424: Appropriates general funds for early childhood consultation contracts and licensed providers who provide services for children with disabilities or developmental delays.

Ohio

SB 21, Session Law 16: Requires all pre-K through third grade teaching applicants to pass an examination of research-based reading instruction principles.

Oklahoma

SB 917, Chapter 308: Adds the following programs and settings to the list of license-exempt child care providers: child care provided in a child's own home or by relatives, informal friend or neighbor arrangements that parents make for the occasional care of their children, drop-in child care, and others. Exempts specialized professionals from criminal background checks unless s/he is directly employed by the child care program and a parental waiver is signed.

HB 1264, Chapter 310: Changes the administrator of the Interagency Coordinating Council for Early Childhood Intervention to the State Department of Education.

HB 1699, Chapter 44: Reauthorizes and extends to 2017 the Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness Board (the state Early Childhood Advisory Council).

Oregon

SB 104, Chapter 26: Requires community college faculty who provide early childhood education instruction in early education settings to undergo state fingerprint checks.

SB 436, Chapter 598: Establishes a statewide strategy to ensure a well-linked and coordinated health and early learning system through community health improvement plans. Requires the Oregon Health Authority to provide grants and funds to contract with organizations to implement the plan.

SB 540, Chapter 773: Establishes the Task Force on School Capital Improvement Planning, requires its membership to include representatives from preschool and kindergarten through 12th grades, and requires it to establish an efficient and integrated P-12 capitol infrastructure system.

HB 2013, Chapter 728: Directs the Early Learning Council (ELC), the Oregon Department of Education and school districts to implement kindergarten readiness assessments. Establishes the Early Learning Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation Fund to achieve early childhood outcomes and connect them to success in the early elementary grades. Requires the ELC to work with the Oregon Health Authority to develop guidelines for prenatal and infant care, align health and learning objectives, and implement standardized statewide screening, assessment and referral services for children from birth to age 3. Expands assessments and services to children from birth through age 3 and their families. Directs the ELC to establish seven community-based Early Learning Hubs in the first year of the biennium and nine additional hubs in the second year. Requires establishment of a professional development and labor management committee for family, friend and neighbor child care providers.

HB 3034, Chapter 282: Requires state prekindergarten programs that receive grants from the state to be subject to public meetings law.

HB 3149, Chapter 586: Creates a Task Force on Community College Child Care Services to study the cost of providing child care services to students of community colleges and identify potential new funding sources.

HB 3232, Chapter 660: Requires the Oregon Education Investment Board to establish the Oregon Early Reading Program to improve kindergarten readiness and third grade reading proficiency. Appropriates funding to the Early Learning Council, the Department of Education and the State Library to increase early literacy development in home and community settings, kindergarten readiness and third grade reading proficiency.

HB 3233, Chapter 661: Establishes the Network of Quality Teaching and Learning and allows the Department of Education to provide funding to meet the professional development needs of P-20 providers.

HB 3234, Chapter 624: Places the new Early Learning Division (ELD) in the Department of Education (DOE) to be overseen by the Early Learning Council (ELC). Designates the new division as the state advisory council for purposes of the federal Head Start Act, administrator of the state pre-K program and Trust Fund, and administrator of the federal Child Care and Development Fund. Outlines duties and functions of the Early Learning System Director, including activities to transfer the Division into the DOE. Allows the DOE to require fingerprinting of those seeking to be licensed, certified or registered for programs under the department's authority, or to make fitness determinations based on national criminal offender information.

Puerto Rico

HB 964, Law 74: Establishes emergency parent notification and communication protocols in child care centers.

HR 468 and **HR 574**: Directs the House Committee on Social Welfare to assess the implementation of early childhood and social welfare program policies.

Rhode Island

SB 794 and **HB 5946**, Chapters 456 and 465: Establishes the Rhode Island Quality Family Child Care Act of 2013 and Child Care Assistance Program Parent Advisory Council to make recommendations to the governor's office to improve child care quality, affordability, access, application and renewal processes, eligibility rules and standards, and family copayment structures. Allows family-based child care providers to collectively bargain with the governor's office on issues of training and professional development, recruitment and retention of qualified providers, reimbursement rates, benefits, payment procedures and grievance

resolution processes. Prohibits providers from being considered state employees, being eligible for state pension or conducting strikes.

SB 1013, Chapter 345: Allows the Division of Motor Vehicles to promulgate rules and regulations to ensure the safety of children who are transported by center- and home-based child care provider vehicles. Excludes home-based providers from having to inconspicuously display vehicle identification information.

HB 5127, Chapter 144: Appropriates state funding to extend child care assistance to parents who earn up to 225 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL). Establishes a Child Care Subsidy Transition Pilot Program to mitigate the "cliff effect" by allowing families to retain eligibility for child care subsidies until their annual income exceeds 225 percent of the FPL.

SB 579, Resolution 154: Proposes that the state conduct a feasibility study to implement a child care subsidy program for military veterans and families.

Tennessee

SB 16, Chapter 177: Prohibits school or child care program employees who are convicted of sexual or violent sexual offenses from having direct contact with children or coming on the school or child care center grounds when children are present.

HB 172, Chapter 72: Clarifies that child care programs operated by faith-based organizations are required to register with the Department of Human Services and maintain attendance records.

SB 321, Chapter 53: Terminates the Child Care Agency Licensing Board of Review on June 30, 2019.

HB 839, Chapter 85: Moves the date by which children must be age 4 from September 30 to August 31 for entrance into public prekindergarten programs in 2013-14 and August 15 for the following years.

SB 1302, Chapter 216: Requires the Department of Human Services to develop a multi-hazards plan to protect children in the event of emergencies such as fires, tornadoes, earthquakes, chemical spills and floods. Requires child care providers to inform parents and guardians of children attending the child care agency regarding the plan.

SB 1370, Chapter 291: Prohibits child care providers from placing a child with a parent on active military duty on a wait list behind a child with no parent on active military duty.

Texas

SB 50, Chapter 388: Revises the composition of the Children's Policy Council.

SB 64, Chapter 1144: Requires the state to develop and implement policies to prevent vaccine-preventable diseases in child care facilities, require employees to receive vaccinations, specify required vaccinations, issue exemptions and monitor compliance.

SB 172, Chapter 1314: Requires school districts to use multi-dimensional assessments to diagnose reading development and comprehension of kindergarten students.

HB 376, Chapter 241: Allows the Texas Workforce Commission and local boards to provide tiered reimbursements to child care providers that participate in the Texas Rising Star Program (the state QRIS or TxRS) using federal Child Care and Development Funds (CCDF). Establishes a workgroup to recommend ways to improve professional development standards, provider education and experience, early learning and

school readiness standards, infant and toddler care, application of brain development research and nationally recognized standards, and strategies for long-term financing.

SB 426, Chapter 421: Establishes the voluntary Texas Home Visiting program for pregnant women or families with children under age 6. Establishes the definition of and funding for evidence-based and promising programs (75 percent and 25 percent, respectively). Requires the commissioner of health to seek and apply for federal funds, including TANF fund, to support home visiting programs and other sources such as private gifts, donations and other grants. Requires programs to be evaluated for effectiveness and submit biennial reports to the Legislature.

SB 427, Chapter 746: Allows the state to conduct unannounced biennial inspections of licensed child care centers that have a history of licensing compliance issues.

SB 1060, Chapter 468: Requires the state to evaluate the cost-effectiveness of the family cost-sharing provisions of the early childhood intervention program. Requires the state to consider implementing a new provision under which the amount a family pays to participate in the early childhood intervention program is based on the amount of service the family receives under the program. Requires providers to enter family income data into the Texas Kids Intervention Data System.

HB 1122, Chapter 660: Requires the state to expand full-day pre-K programs for a number of students equal to twice the number of students who received a high school diploma under a new state pilot program.

HB 1741, Chapter 1132: Requires vehicles used by child care facilities to transport children to be equipped with safety alarms.

SB 1836, Chapter 820: Allows individuals to donate cash to the state home visiting program through the newly created Texas Home Visiting Trust Fund.

HB 2620, Chapter 1021: Requires that a representative from the Texas Home Visiting Program be appointed to the State Task Force on Domestic Violence.

Utah

HB 165, Chapter 276: Eliminates the fingerprint background check exemption for child care providers who have lived in the state for five years and who have applied for a child care license or certificate after July 2013.

SB 260, Chapter 466: Requires the State Board of Education to develop uniform standards in school districts' K-3 reading improvement plans and requires reading competency domains to include phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, and comprehension and vocabulary development. Requires school districts to submit reading plans to the board, establish annual reading proficiency growth goals, and employ interactive software programs to instruct and assess student reading proficiency. Appropriates state funding for a kindergarten early intervention reading program.

SB 263, Chapter 467: Allows working parents to count child care costs toward monthly child support obligations.

Vermont

SB 156, Act 66: Requires the Secretary of Human Services to establish standards for statewide home visiting services. Requires the secretary to address issues related to provider training and supervision, family outreach, intake, referrals and transitions; family ability to address short- and long-term needs, contribution of volunteers, and criteria that link home visiting models and programs to state funding eligibility.

Virginia

SB 1171 and **HB 2068**, Chapters 157 and 123: Establishes statewide English Standards of Learning for K-12 students. Requires school districts to report the reading test results annually to the state, provide reading intervention to students in kindergarten through grade three who demonstrate reading deficiencies, and reassess students at the end of the school year.

HB 1500, Chapter 806: Establishes formula funding and allocates lottery revenues to the Department of Education to implement prekindergarten for at-risk 4-year-olds. Requires pre-K programs to provide full-day or half-day and offer school-year services. Outlines criteria for application, funding and local match requirements. Appropriates funding to the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation (VECF) for public-private partners to develop recommendations for a kindergarten readiness assessment. Requires the VECF to appoint an advisory committee to develop a pilot design by July 2013 and outcomes reported to the governor and legislature. Requires the state to establish academic standards to assess kindergarten readiness and provide technical assistance to develop comprehensive, quality preschool programs. Requires school districts to discuss reading test results and remediation plans with students and their parents prior to fourth grade promotion.

HB 1582, Chapter 416: Prohibits the State Board of Social Services from disallowing child care centers from hiring armed security officers.

HB 1640, Chapter 261: Requires those seeking to enter into a child care provider contract with state or local departments of social services (for which federal, state or local subsidy payments may be paid) to undergo criminal background checks. Authorizes the dissemination of criminal history record information to the state and localities and establishes penalties for noncompliance.

Washington

HB 1203, Chapter 220: Exempts from public disclosure personal information contained in child care and early learning records maintained by the Department of Early Learning (DEL).

HB 1723, Chapter 323: Establishes the Early Start Program to provide statewide, comprehensive and high-quality early learning opportunities for families and children. Subject to funding availability, expands the state pre-K program, implements the Early Achievers (QRIS) program by 2015, and increases provider reimbursements. Requires DEL to report to the Legislature regarding the state's recruitment and retention of high-quality early learning professionals, provider reimbursements and workforce compensation compared to other states. Requires DEL to reserve (subject to funding availability) at least 80 percent of home visiting funds for the Home Visiting Services Account (HVSA) and up to 20 percent of the new funds for parent support services. Requires home visiting services to serve families involved in the child welfare system. Allows schools to use up to three days at the beginning of the school year to administer the WAKids kindergarten readiness assessments and meet with parents.

SB 5157, Chapter 29, 2nd Special Session: Requires the state to investigate suspected child care subsidy fraud that could potentially prevent providers from receiving future subsidy payments.

SB 5595, Chapter 337: Establishes a legislative task force to provide recommendations for an improved tiered reimbursement model, integrated mixed-delivery early learning programs and services, ways to address the conflicts arising from different program eligibility guidelines—including a copayment system that allows families to gradually step down and eliminate the subsidy cut-off ‘cliff effect’— and incentives for providers to better integrate programming.

SB 5809, Chapter 165: Requires the DEL to deposit federal home visiting funds into the HVSA and administer federal program requirements. Requires a 50 percent local match annually via public-private partnerships and requires that unmet match goals be reported to the Legislature. Prohibits program administration costs from exceeding 4 percent in any two consecutive years.

SB 5904, Chapter 16: Requires the state to increase enrollment in the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP), evaluate state contracts to ensure that programs are research-based and cost effective, and increase provider reimbursement rates by 10 percent as funds are available.

SB 5946a, Chapter 18, 2nd Special Session: Requires school districts to implement an evidence-based reading assistance program to address the literacy skills of students in kindergarten through fourth grade.

West Virginia

SB 359, Chapter 55: Requires kindergarten paraprofessionals to obtain an early childhood assistant teacher certificate by 2014 and establishes a teacher scholarship and loan assistance program for those seeking to teach in preschool up to the secondary grades.

Note: Full summaries of bills by state and topic are available **HERE** (<http://www.ncsl.org/research/human-services/2013-child-care-early-education-legislative-actions.aspx>)

Sources: NCSL and StateNet, 2013.