

CHILD CARE

Governors' 2014 State of the State Addresses: Mentions of Early Care and Education

May 2014

A total of **23 governors** (12 Democrats and 10 Republicans), as well as the mayor of the District of Columbia, have referenced early care and education in their 2014 State of the State addresses thus far. The focus on this important issue reflects a recognition that early care and education helps children succeed in school and in life, enables parents to work, and strengthens states' economies now and in the future. A number of governors offered specific proposals to significantly expand access to high-quality early learning opportunities. For example, Michigan Governor Rick Snyder called for an additional \$65 million for prekindergarten, matching the \$65 million added in the previous year. Missouri Governor Jay Nixon proposed to triple funding for prekindergarten. Indiana Governor Mike Pence called for the establishment of a new voluntary prekindergarten program. The governors of Connecticut, New York, and Vermont noted that the ultimate goal was to move toward universal prekindergarten. District of Columbia Mayor Vincent Gray proposed to expand access to high-quality early care and education for infants and toddlers, and Illinois Governor Pat Quinn proposed an initiative that would reach children from birth to age five.

The excerpts from the speeches related to early care and education, along with links to the complete speeches, are provided below. (One state has not yet scheduled its State of the State address for this year, and six states do not have State of the State addresses this year.)

Alabama: Governor Robert Bentley (R)

January 14, 2014

<http://governor.alabama.gov/newsroom/2014/01/governor-bentleys-2014-state-state-address/>

There is no greater opportunity we can give an Alabama child in poverty than a chance to excel in school. So many of our children need this opportunity – but too few have access to it. The earlier they begin receiving a quality education, the better chance they have at success.

Alabama is home to one of the nation's top pre-k programs. Last year, we opened 100 new pre-k sites, and I can tell you, pre-k is making a real difference in the lives of Alabama's children.

First class pre-k children consistently miss fewer days of school, they are less likely to need special education services and are less often retained than those children who are not in pre-k. Third-graders who were in pre-k scored at 100 percent reading proficiency. But the most significant result of children in pre-k is the impact on those who live in poverty from low-income families. Pre-k closed the achievement gap for lower-income students by as much as 29 percent.

Because of these proven results, I am including more funding for voluntary pre-k in my budget, so that we can once again expand.

Alaska: Governor Sean Parnell (R)

January 22, 2014

<http://gov.state.ak.us/parnell/press-room/full-press-release.html?pr=6713>

(No reference)

Arizona: Governor Jan Brewer (R)

January 13, 2014

http://azgovernor.gov/dms/upload/GS_011314_SOTS2014.pdf

(No reference)

Arkansas: Governor Mike Beebe (D)

No State of the State Address

California: Governor Jerry Brown (D)

January 22, 2014

<http://gov.ca.gov/news.php?id=18373>

(No reference)

Colorado: Governor John Hickenlooper (D)

January 9, 2014

<http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite?c=Page&childpagename=GovHickenlooper%2FCBONLayout&cid=1251649620018&pagename=CBONW rapper>

(No reference)

Connecticut: Governor Dannel Malloy (D)

February 6, 2014

<http://www.governor.ct.gov/malloy/cwp/view.asp?A=11&Q=539440>

We know the best way to increase someone's chances for success is a quality education. In that spirit, I want to leave you today with five ideas that I think will help give every Connecticut student access to a great education. I want to work with you on these five initiatives because years from now, when the great recession is a distant memory, long-after the political battles of this year have faded, this should be our legacy: that we made sure all Connecticut kids get a great education, one that starts early and takes them as far as their dreams and hard work will allow.

First, and for the first time in our history, let's commit Connecticut to achieving universal prekindergarten. **We can start with an additional 1,020 early childhood opportunities next year, expanding to 4,000 new opportunities by 2019. We can give grants to communities so they have the tools to implement these changes. And, we can give much-needed rate increases to school readiness providers, child care centers, and Care-For-Kids programs.**

We know that early education is one of the best ways to level the playing field for students. We know it, because we've seen it firsthand.

Tamara Jackson is a Hartford mom with two kids who are currently receiving early learning experiences. Her son Andrew was born two months premature, and she worried about his development. A little over a year ago Andrew moved into a new early education program. Tamara says his progress has been nothing short of remarkable. With the help of some great teachers, he's already caught up to his peers. His experience has put him on equal footing, and given him the tools he needs to learn. I want to welcome Andrew's mom, Tamara, who is here with us

this afternoon. Let's help more kids like Andrew by moving our state to universal pre-k.

It will be a long and thoughtful process, but if you believe as I do that education is the civil rights issue of our time, then I ask you to join me today in taking the first steps toward making sure every child has access to a pre-k experience. This would build on our important work begun last year to create the Office of Early Childhood. We need to finish that work by codifying this Office in statute. I am ready to sign that legislation today.

...These five proposals – taken together – are part of a continuum, one that would help our kids from birth all the way through college. Let's work to build this future together. A future where every child has access to an early learning experience. A future that gives every kid the opportunity for higher education – one they can afford. A future where we are graduating as many students as possible into good jobs, with good benefits, right here in Connecticut. That's the kind of future Connecticut families deserve.

Delaware: Governor Jack Markell (D)

January 23, 2014

<http://governor.delaware.gov/speeches/2014StateOfTheState/>

We all agree that a quality education is essential for anyone seeking to unleash his or her potential – and this begins at a very early age. Teachers tell us that the number one barrier to academic success is when kids do not come to school ready to learn.

Six years ago, Senator Blevins set us on a path to improve the quality of our children's early learning experiences, as prime sponsor of the legislation that created the Stars quality rating system in Delaware. The Stars program has provided the critical base for the investments we have made over the last several years.

We have made significant progress. **Last year alone the number of low-income children attending a high-quality program increased by 50 percent. That means 2,200 more children are getting better opportunities to be prepared for success in school.**

I am grateful to Senator Blevins and all of the members of the General Assembly for your support of early childhood education opportunities for low-income Delawareans.

But our work on behalf of our most vulnerable children isn't done. We can do more to support the national Nurse Family Partnership program, through which nurses visit first-time low-income mothers, and teach them how to care for their newborns. The results around the country have been stunning, including better academic performance, less juvenile delinquency, and better overall child health outcomes.

As our next step, I propose that we more than double the number of first-time mothers who are served in Delaware by this proven program. That would give us a higher percentage of eligible mothers who are benefitting from this program than in any other state in America.

District of Columbia: Mayor Vincent Gray (D)

March 11, 2014

<http://mayor.dc.gov/release/text-prepared-delivery-mayor-vincent-c-gray%E2%80%99s-2014-state-district-address>

We will add resources to strengthen our early childhood education programs, which already lead the nation.

Anyone who knows me knows how passionate I am about early childhood education, including pre-k – because research proves its clear benefits to children's development and success down the road. Babies are born learning. The infant and toddler years represent a period of rapid brain development that sets the foundation for future growth and development. The evidence of this is indisputable. Thanks to legislation I authored when I chaired the Council, over the past several years the District has done an excellent job of getting our three- and four-year-olds into pre-k programs. Ninety-two percent of District four-year-olds and 70 percent of our three-year-olds are in school. We have been cited as a model for the rest of the nation by child advocates like Marian Wright Edelman and even President Obama.

But we can and will do more. Our initial focus has been on getting more kids into early childhood education programs. Now we are turning our attention – and our investment – to improving quality. We must grow the supply of high-quality early learning opportunities for children from birth to age three so that more children – especially those from low-income families – can develop and learn and be prepared for the transition to pre-k.

With additional investment, we will raise the bar on quality for our infant and toddler programs. To ensure the health, learning, and development of these very young children, we will be the first state in the nation to require all subsidized child care providers to meet the rigorous Early Head Start standards. And we will provide resources to help them succeed.

...Another way we will support our youngest children and their parents is to make life a little bit easier for new parents. Giving parents the ability to bond with their babies is part of what sets children up for success...This month, I will propose legislation that will, for the first time ever, establish paid parental leave for District government employees. If approved by the Council, District government employees with new children will receive up to six weeks of paid parental leave for a parent designated as the primary caregiver, and up to two weeks of paid parental leave for a parent designated as the secondary caregiver.

Florida: Governor Rick Scott (R)

March 4, 2014

<http://www.flgov.com/2014/03/04/gov-scott-lets-keep-working/>

(No reference)

Georgia: Governor Nathan Deal (R)

January 15, 2014

<http://gov.georgia.gov/press-releases/2014-01-15/deal-deep-freeze-over-georgia%E2%80%99s-economy-warms>

Last year we identified three areas of study in our technical colleges where jobs already existed. Those were commercial driving, practical nursing and early childhood education. For students who pursued those areas, we have paid 100 percent of their tuition through the HOPE Grant...

...[I]t is...important that our pre-k through high school programs continue to improve the quality of our students. We must work to avoid the necessity of costly remediation. If we hope for the greatest results, we must get it right the first time! This means making sure they're reading on grade level by the end of third grade and then following through as they continue their education journey.

Let me take this opportunity to thank my wife, the First Lady, who visited every school district in the state to read to Georgia's children in order to emphasize the importance of their learning to read.

Because of the progress we have made and Georgia's existing 20-year investment in what is now recognized as one of the best pre-k programs in the country, we have been awarded an Early Learning Challenge Grant of over \$50 million. This money will be used to accelerate the reforms that we implemented last year.

Hawaii: Governor Neil Abercrombie (D)

January 21, 2014

<http://governor.hawaii.gov/blog/2014-state-of-the-state-address/>

There is no more critical issue before us than early childhood development and education. I look forward to strengthening relationships with the private and nonprofit sectors by the passage of the constitutional amendment to provide for partnerships in early education. I appreciate the Legislature's support last session for our expansion of the Preschool Open Doors program.

Administrative rules are nearly complete. **The program envisions providing assistance to 1,200 families of**

four-year-old children that will no longer be eligible to attend kindergarten as of August 1 this year.

This modest approach is not enough. Some 5,000 four-year-olds will be affected by this change in the age requirement. Some families have the financial capacity to afford the average preschool rate of \$8,100 per year. Many middle income families will struggle and have to make difficult choices. Most lesser-income families will be precluded from the option of making any choices.

We know that the early years of a child's development are crucial in setting the foundation for a child's behavior and lifelong learning. From birth to age five, more than 85 percent of a person's brain development takes place. An alarming number of our children are entering school without the basics needed to succeed in school, such as wanting to read, vocabulary acquisition, and learning how to behave within a group.

Investing in our children's early years will pay dividends down the road in the form of healthy and contributing adults, reduced crime and incarceration, and less dependency on social services. We invest in ourselves by investing in early childhood education.

Our plan is to build and strengthen Hawaii's mixed-delivery system of early learning programs. Community-based preschools are now and will be a key component. To expand access for four-year-olds, we are proposing direct services in 32 classrooms across the state, half of which are on the neighbor islands.

We are seeking additional resources for Family-Child Interaction Learning programs. We are proposing support for families who participate in Preschool Open Doors. These requests total approximately \$8 million. Our plan is targeted, aimed at helping those who otherwise have little or no options. These initial investments will serve an additional 1,040 children and their families.

I realize this is an election year. Political agendas and ambitions are being formulated. But let us take children out of these equations. Let us resolve – all of us – to be champions of children. You have my pledge and my word on that.

...I am requesting additional funding for the Department of Health's Early Intervention Services. The program provides critical services to children with developmental delays from birth to three years of age. The program provides positive intervention in the crucial areas of cognitive and physical function, social and emotional well-being and adaptive skills...There are, of course, several budget requests and bills that will be proposed for the Department of Health, all of which are important. Nonetheless, I am asking for specific attention to make funding for Early Intervention Services a priority.

Idaho: Governor C. L. "Butch" Otter (R)

January 6, 2014

http://gov.idaho.gov/mediacenter/speeches/sp_2014/State%20of%20the%20State%202014%20%282%29.pdf

(No reference)

Illinois: Governor Pat Quinn (D)

January 29, 2014

<http://www2.illinois.gov/gov/Documents/State%20of%20the%20State/2014%20SOTS%20ADDRESS.pdf>

...[O]ur unfinished job on education starts where it matters most: in early childhood.

Study after study has shown that high-quality early childhood education provides the best return of any public investment we can make – more than \$7 for every dollar invested. That's why our state invests in programs serving our at-risk children, from birth all the way to kindergarten.

Since I've taken office, I've always fought to preserve early childhood education from radical budget cuts. And we found a way to invest \$45 million to build early education centers in high-need areas such as Dolton, Kankakee, and Cicero. Our state actually leads the nation in the number of three-year-olds attending preschool. But the status quo is not enough. Not even close.

The reality is, more than a third of our youngest and most vulnerable children don't have the opportunity to attend early learning programs before they enter kindergarten. And that's unacceptable. At-risk children who don't receive early childhood education are: 25 percent more likely to drop out of school; 40 percent more likely to become a teen parent; 50 percent more likely to be placed in special education; 60 percent more likely to never attend college; and 70 percent more likely to be arrested for a violent crime.

Scripture tells us, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." **That's why today I'm calling for a bold Birth to Five Initiative that will be focused on three keys to a healthy child: prenatal care, access to early learning opportunities, and strong parent support.**

...When the human brain is forming early in a child's life, it provides a critical window of opportunity to develop key academic, social, and cognitive skills that will determine success in school and in life. That's why the second pillar of our Birth to Five Initiative is to provide every child with access to quality early learning opportunities. This is especially important for our African American and Latino children.

Children like Cadence Marie Robinson, a five-year-old who I recently met when I visited Spencer Technology Academy on the west side of Chicago. She sat on my knee and told me she was getting ready for kindergarten. And then she read the numbers on my business card to me – something she could do thanks to the Head Start program she attended. With strong early childhood education, kids like Cadence are set on a path for long-term success. We're really proud of you, Cadence.

We also see the importance of early childhood education in people like Christine Nicpon. Raised by a single mother in Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood, Christine's family struggled every month to make ends meet. Her mother always knew she wanted more for her children and, after seeing a flyer, she enrolled Christine in an early learning program. Christine went to high school, then college and last year completed her Master's degree at the University of Chicago. Today, she's a fellow at the Latino Policy Forum and striving for a career in early childhood. Good job, Christine.

We already have the foundation in place for early childhood learning. In 2009, I established the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development. And as a result, we secured federal grants from Race to the Top that are allowing us to deliver high-quality early care and education programs.

By properly investing in our existing early learning programs and making this a budget priority, we can transform lives and save taxpayer money. But we can't stop there. A parent is a child's first teacher. Moms and dads play the most important role in promoting the healthy development of their kids. But not all families are equipped with the information and support they need to create healthy learning environments. That's why the third critical part of our Birth to Five Initiative calls for ensuring parents have the support and services they need. Family involvement during preschool is linked with stronger pre-literacy skills, math skills, social skills, and positive attitudes. Over the next five years, we'll connect families to a range of services and training opportunities to help them support their children's education. We'll expand our home visiting program and build on our innovative community partnerships in places like East St. Louis, Aurora, North Lawndale, and Marion.

Once our Birth to Five Initiative is fully implemented, mothers will be connected with prenatal care to ensure the healthy birth and development of their children. Children in Illinois will have access to quality early learning, starting at birth. And parents will have the tools to lead their children toward success in school, college, career, and beyond. Illinois can lead the nation in early childhood education. We have the foundation in place. Now is the time to get the job done for Illinois' littlest.

Indiana: Governor Mike Pence (R)

January 14, 2014

<http://www.in.gov/gov/2014stateofstate.htm>

Because every child deserves to start school ready to learn, I believe the time has come for a voluntary pre-k program to help Indiana's low-income kids.

Now, I'll always believe the best pre-k program is a prosperous family that is able to provide the kind of

enrichment in their home that every child needs and deserves. But the reality is that's not the case for many Indiana children.

It's important that the program be voluntary. It's important that the program is available in the form of a voucher. I want parents to be able to choose to send their child to a church-based program, a private program, or a public program that they think would best meet their needs.

Let's open the doors of opportunity to low-income families for preschool education, for their future and ours.

Iowa: Governor Terry Branstad (R)

January 14, 2014

<https://governor.iowa.gov/2014/01/gov-branstad-delivers-2014-condition-of-the-state-iowa-is-working/>

(No reference)

Kansas: Governor Sam Brownback (R)

January 15, 2014

<https://governor.ks.gov/media-room/media-releases/2014/01/16/2014-state-of-the-state-of-kansas>

(No reference)

Kentucky: Governor Steve Beshear (D)

January 7, 2014

http://governor.ky.gov/Speeches/20140107_SOTC.pdf

...[T]hanks to decades of hard work and aggressive policy changes, Kentucky has carved out a new reputation as a reform-minded state that is innovative, bold, and determined. That new reputation was further strengthened early in 2013, when Education Week's annual Quality Counts report ranked Kentucky in the top 10 states in student performance and education progress...So now, when our educators attend national conferences, they are barraged with questions from leaders in other states who want to know: How is Kentucky doing it, and how can they replicate our success?

Since I became governor, our efforts have focused on three areas: improving early childhood education; raising the graduation rate; and increasing the college and career readiness of our students, who will become the workforce upon which Kentucky's economic future depends.

In the first area, early childhood, we have coalesced around a concept called "kindergarten readiness" and are implementing a kindergarten entry screener to evaluate where incoming students stand on cognitive, physical, and emotional skills.

Three weeks ago, our efforts received a game-changing boost when we were awarded a \$44.3 million Race to the Top grant to improve early learning programs for thousands of Kentucky preschoolers.

Here in Kentucky, the initiative is called the All-STARS plan – Accelerating Learning Statewide Through an Advanced Rating System. **I will seek legislation needed to implement the goals of the All-STARS plan which will provide for more accountability and better transparency throughout our state's early child care system.** Getting our children off to a better start in life – all of our children, not just those in wealthy, two-parent households – will dictate our success as a state.

...The bottom line: We are fitting the pieces together to create a seamless, cradle-to-career education system that is better preparing our students for this complex world.

...[I]n balancing our budgets during the recession, we were sometimes forced to cut far too deeply, decimating many programs and services that Kentuckians desperately need. And those cuts damaged our ability to build a

stronger future. We cannot continue making progress by paying teachers less than they deserve ... and by retreating from things like child care and mental health services. My friends, we need more resources to make needed investments in our future.

Louisiana: Governor Bobby Jindal (R)

March 10, 2014

http://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2014/03/bobby_jindal_louisiana_legisla.html

(No reference)

Maine: Governor Paul LePage (R)

February 4, 2014

http://www.maine.gov/tools/whatsnew/index.php?topic=Gov_Speeches&id=614018&v=article2011

(No reference)

Maryland: Governor Martin O'Malley (D)

January 23, 2014

<http://www.governor.maryland.gov/blog/?p=9788>

With all of the strides we've made in education, **this session we have the ability to advance universal pre-k in Maryland.**

Massachusetts: Governor Deval Patrick (D)

January 28, 2014

<http://www.mass.gov/governor/pressoffice/speeches/0128-governor-patrick-delivers-state-of-the-commonwealth.html>

First and foremost, let's keep leading in education. **Let's make quality early education and all-day kindergarten available to more young children.**

...This Commonwealth has been a friend to organized labor as well. We've worked together to make organizing easier through card check legislation, and by extending the right to organize to personal care attendants and home-based early ed providers.

Michigan: Governor Rick Snyder (R)

January 16, 2014

http://michigan.gov/documents/reinvent/2014-State-of-State-Transcript_445060_7.pdf

Let me talk about education now. And I'm going to start with something that I believe many of us are absolutely passionate about, and that's early childhood education. Last year when I was here, we had gone out to see how many preschool kids didn't have the opportunity to get a preschool education because of need. The number came out to be 29,000.

That wasn't right. We shouldn't have a wait for preschool. We couldn't solve the problem in one year, in order to be fiscally responsible, so what I said is, "Let's do a \$65 million investment in this last year's budget." And it got tremendous support, because people do believe in this cause. We created 18,000 openings this last year for those preschool kids. That's fabulous.

In fact, a couple days ago a report came out that talked about early preschool education in the entire United States. You know who was at the top? Both in terms of percentage investment and dollar investment, the State of Michigan made the largest investment in preschool education in 2013 of any state in the United States.

So let me share – again, this is a personal thing, this is not about numbers. So now from Harrison Park Elementary School, in Grand Rapids, I have a mother, Brittany Barrientes. I'd like Brittany to stand with her two fine young children, Brianna – Briasia, excuse me, and Brooklyn. Briasia's in the sixth grade. She's completed preschool and she's moved on. And Brooklyn's in preschool, and she got that opening because of this program. So thank you so much, girls, and Brittany, for being with us tonight. I'll let you two girls figure out which one of you are going to be standing here someday giving this speech.

The other thing, though, is to say we made half that commitment. **So when you find my budget message coming to you this next month, you're going to find a recommendation for an additional \$65 million investment, and we're going to make it a no-wait state for early childhood education in the State of Michigan.**

Our Great Start Readiness program has gotten such great recognition. We won our first Race to the Top award of over \$50 million from the federal government to actually supplement the dollars we're doing. So that shows you we're being recognized as among the best in the country besides the biggest. So we're going to keep that up.

...Where have we put off paying for things that we should have – and we've done that in the state in terms of underinvesting in a number of areas, including areas like early childhood – let's make sure we're paying those things, shouldn't we?

Minnesota: Governor Mark Dayton (D) April 30, 2014

<http://mn.gov/governor/blog/the-office-of-the-governor-blog-entry-detail.jsp?id=102-128370>

Improving education is closely connected with good jobs and economic growth. It is also closely connected with our citizens' health and well-being. I am very pleased to report that we have made significant new investments in education, all the way from early childhood through post-secondary, and improved results are beginning to show.

... State funding for early childhood education scholarships was increased to \$46 million last year, and the Senate wants to raise that amount this year. Early childhood education is real education reform.

The legislature also passed one of my consistent priorities; and state-funded, all-day kindergarten will begin this fall. Studies show that both early childhood and all-day kindergarten can make crucial differences in boosting students' performances and closing achievement gaps. So do nutritious hot school lunches. No child should be shamed because parents can't afford lunch. Hopefully, that funding will soon be enacted.

... Increasing our commitment to early childhood education will be one key to closing the achievement gap and enabling all of our children to become successful adults. **Let us all commit that by 2018, all three- and four-year-olds in Minnesota will have access to quality, affordable early childhood education.**

Mississippi: Governor Phil Bryant (R) January 22, 2014

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/s3.documentcloud.org/documents/1009906/state-of-the-state-2014-mississippi.pdf>

When we set about to develop our Education Works agenda, we found troubling evidence of the struggles in Mississippi classrooms. Just two weeks ago, Education Week released its Quality Counts ratings that placed Mississippi as number 51 for K through 12 student achievement. We can all agree this is unacceptable.

Political posturing and finger-pointing do nothing to help these children, so we have worked together in these past two years to offer solutions... Our Education Works reforms will help prepare children for lifelong learning by improving literacy skills and ending status quo social promotion.

In one eventful year, we implemented the third-grade gate to require reading proficiency; we launched a merit pay program; we raised standards for teacher training programs and created scholarships for bright young students

who want to teach; **we established a collaborative pre-k learning program**; we funded Mississippi Building Blocks; and we created a public charter school system.

Missouri: Governor Jay Nixon (D)

January 21, 2014

<http://governor.mo.gov/news/archive/gov-nixon-delivers-2014-state-state-address-0>

This nation's greatest generation made a commitment to education – and as a result, they made the United States the driver of the global economy and the undisputed leader of the free world. Now, it's our turn to carry on that legacy. Now, we must work to help every child start school ready to learn.

...Together, let's resolve to give our children and grandchildren more opportunities, better opportunities than we had, and build the future they deserve. We need to start early. Parents and teachers see it every day: the first few years of a child's development have an impact that lasts a lifetime. A child who starts kindergarten ready to learn is more likely to succeed in school, go to college, and get a good job.

Working together, over the last year, we've expanded access to early childhood education, giving more children the opportunity to go to high-quality preschool in their communities. But this year, it's time that we do much more. Kids grow up fast – so there's no time to waste. **We must work together to make sure our kids start smart. And that's why my budget will nearly triple funding for the Missouri Preschool Program.**

We will provide quality early learning opportunities to thousands more kids all across Missouri.

...Now it's time to decide whether we're merely going to talk about public education, or whether we're going to fund it. This is the test – and this is the year – to get serious about fully funding our schools. Our local schools will put these dollars to work in a big way for our kids and communities.

Here are just a few of the priorities that school districts have already identified: ...In Santa Fe, they'll bring back summer school, and establish the district's first early childhood education program.... And in Springfield, 4,000 more three- and four-year-olds will have the opportunity to attend high-quality preschool.

...From preschool to graduate school, in total, my budget includes 493 million additional dollars for education. Our growing economy, combined with our sound budget management, affords us this unique opportunity to invest in our students' future – our state's future.

...Thirty years from now, when the student who was the first in her family to go to college takes the reins of a Fortune 500 company, she probably won't credit the high-quality preschool she attended. But we will. And we'll know we focused on the right things. We'll know we made the right choices.

Montana: Governor Steve Bullock (D)

No State of the State address

Nebraska: Governor Dave Heineman (R)

January 15, 2014

http://governor.nebraska.gov/news/2014/01/docs/0114_SOTS-FINAL_Reading.pdf

(No reference)

Nevada: Governor Brian Sandoval (R)

No State of the State address

New Hampshire: Governor Maggie Hassan (D)

February 6, 2014

<http://www.governor.nh.gov/media/speeches/state-of-state-2014.htm>

(No reference)

New Jersey: Governor Chris Christie (R)

January 14, 2014

<http://www.state.nj.us/governor/news/news/552013/approved/20130114c.html>

Our urban schools demand our attention, and believe me, they have mine. Where bold action was necessary, we have taken bold action. And we have made a commitment to the kids in our cities that they have a right to the same quality education as kids in our suburbs.

In our largest school system, in Newark, we have brought in a new organization and new resources, not only in the form of state aid but in collaboration with parents, teachers, and community leaders on the ground... Most importantly we want to encourage innovation while listening to the specific needs of our urban communities. It's the reason why we have empowered our superintendents in Newark and Camden to make choices that work best for their kids, their parents, and their schools.

In Newark...[e]arly childhood enrollment has increased by more than 1,000 students. Graduation rates have increased by 10 percent.

Newark is leading the conversation in making sure every kid – those who are behind, those who are ahead, those who have special education needs – are lifted up. Every kid means every kid.

New Mexico: Governor Susana Martinez (R)

January 21, 2014

http://governor.state.nm.us/uploads/PressRelease/191a415014634aa89604e0b4790e4768/Governor_Susana_Martinez_Delivers_State_of_the_State_Address.pdf

I haven't been shy about investing in education. Education spending is now above pre-recession levels, the highest in state history. My budget calls for \$100 million more.

But money alone isn't the answer. We should expect a return on our education dollars, and that return should be student achievement - our kids reading at a higher level, our students graduating at a higher rate.

Money should go directly to supporting struggling students, increasing parental involvement, developing and rewarding successful teachers, and turning failing schools around... It begins with making sure that every child is able to learn to read.

We doubled funding for pre-k, went from serving 4,600 students to almost 8,000. I am proposing another expansion this year.

New York: Governor Andrew Cuomo (D)

January 8, 2014

<http://www.governor.ny.gov/press/01092014-transcript-2014-sos>

We said we would make New York smarter and we did... We expanded full-day pre-k, incentivized performance through master teachers and launched SUNY and CUNY 2020.

...[W]hether it is upstate or downstate, the best long-term economic development strategy is to have the best education system in the world, period, and that is our focus. We are in the midst of an education reinvention. Replacing a 1950's bureaucracy with a 2020 performance organization, we formed the new New York Education Reform Commission headed by Dick Parsons. They have done extraordinary work; they have called for a full-day

pre-k, extending school days, and for performance pay.

...We can do better, we must do better, we will do better. Let's invest in the future, let's reimagine our classrooms for the next generation, let's have the smartest classrooms in the nation because our children deserve nothing less than the best. ...And while we remake our class rooms for tomorrow, we must get young minds engaged as early as possible. **In 2013 in the State of the State, we called for expanded full-day pre-k. The assembly has long championed the same. It is time for New York State to have universal full-day pre-k statewide.**

North Carolina: Governor Pat McCrory (R)

No State of the State address

North Dakota: Governor Jack Dalrymple (R)

No State of the State address

Ohio: Governor John Kasich (R)

February 24, 2014

<http://governor.ohio.gov/Portals/0/2014%20State%20of%20the%20State%20Final%20Transcript.pdf>

Even as we work to help better prepare students for college and their careers, we're not going to forget their early years. **To make sure Ohio is doing everything it can to help our youngest learners, we're raising the standards for publicly funded early childhood education so that more children enter school ready to succeed.** And at the same time, we're going to make sure we're spending those important dollars in ways that will make a difference. We believe in early childhood education. We're going to promote it. We're going to make it work in our state in an effective way.

Oklahoma: Governor Mary Fallin (R)

February 3, 2014

<http://www.ok.gov/governor/documents/2-3-14%202014%20State%20of%20the%20State%20press%20copy%20final.pdf>

(No reference)

Oregon: Governor John Kitzhaber (D)

State of the State not yet scheduled

Pennsylvania: Governor Tom Corbett (R)

February 4, 2014

<http://www.pa.gov/Pages/NewsDetails.aspx?agency=Governors%20Office&item=15243#.UwKpNlU5izD>

Every child in this state should be ready to learn, ready to grow, ready to succeed, and my budget sets an agenda in that spirit.

...At every level, from early childhood to high school and beyond, every dollar we spend is an investment in the future of our commonwealth. Because of these strong reforms, I am pleased to announce today the next phase of my Ready to Learn education agenda, which includes strategic investments at all levels of education.

This budget starts with our youngest, investing an additional \$10 million in Pre-K Counts to allow more three- and four-year-olds to enter high-quality early learning programs. This funding, combined with the recent \$51 million we were awarded in the federal Race to the Top grant for early learning, means that Pennsylvania will continue to provide some of the best early childhood education programs in the nation.

Rhode Island: Governor Lincoln Chafee (D)**January 15, 2014**http://www.governor.ri.gov/newsroom/speeches/sosaddress/SOS_2014.php

(No reference)

South Carolina: Governor Nikki R. Haley (R)**January 22, 2014**<http://governor.sc.gov/News/January2014/Pages/default.aspx>

(No reference)

South Dakota: Governor Dennis Daugaard (R)**January 14, 2014**<http://sd.gov/governor/docs/2014%20State%20of%20State%20transcript.pdf>

(No reference)

Tennessee: Governor Bill Haslam (R)**February 3, 2014**<http://www.tn.gov/stateofthestate/files/2014/020314%20State%20of%20the%20State%20Address%20-%20FINAL%20%28clean%29.pdf>

(No reference)

Texas: Governor Rick Perry (R)*No State of the State address***Utah: Governor Gary R. Herbert (R)****January 29, 2014**<http://www.utah.gov/governor/docs/stateofstate/2014StateoftheStateAddress.pdf>

(No reference)

Vermont: Governor Peter Shumlin (D)**January 8, 2014**<http://governor.vermont.gov/newsroom-state-of-state-speech-2013>

Our schools also have a greater role to play [in addressing drug addiction]. We know that risky behavior develops early in life and too often accompanies family difficulties and dysfunction. When parents struggle, children suffer, and we all pay the price for years to come. This is why we must continue our focus on the earliest years. Our recent success in securing the \$37 million Early Childhood Education Race to the Top grant will be a huge help in making Vermont a leader in these efforts. **And if you send me the bill that passed the House last spring, we can make sure all Vermont children have access to quality universal prekindergarten to help set them on the right path.**

If you listen to the voices of addiction, you hear the underlying cause of this disease for too many: a lack of hope and opportunity. So while we should celebrate that our unemployment rate is low, and that our economic outlook is bright, none of us should be content until all Vermonters, including those who are born into poverty, have the same opportunities to succeed and flourish as the most fortunate. Our best prevention against drug addiction is to create jobs and opportunity for all Vermonters. **By providing the best early childhood education**

in America. By continuing our good work on early college, dual enrollment, and flexible pathways, and passing my STEM scholarship proposal so that more of our kids can afford higher education and are able to move beyond high school. By building the training and resources for continued job growth. By creating a sensible, affordable, publicly-financed, universal health care system for all Vermonters. By ensuring that every Vermonter, regardless of income, has the chance at success – living, working, and raising their family right here in Vermont.

Virginia: Governor Terry McAuliffe (D)

January 13, 2014

<https://governor.virginia.gov/newsarticle?articleId=2572>

Building a 21st century workforce means preparing our children for success starting at the earliest stages of their development. **That is why I support expanding access to pre-k education, so that every child is ready to learn and thrive, regardless of what zip code they live in, or what their parents' financial situation is.**

Washington: Governor Jay Inslee (D)

January 14, 2014

<http://www.governor.wa.gov/news/speeches/2014SOSAddress.pdf>

You can expect that again I will bring forward tax exemptions that I think fall short when weighed against the needs of our schools. And in some areas we need to do more than the court has mandated, such as early childhood education. Our children are our paramount duty at every age, not just from kindergarten to 12th grade.

It would be a mistake to fall behind on early learning as we take care of funding K-12. **Equal opportunity means every child in Washington starts kindergarten ready to learn, and that's why I'm asking for \$4 million for these programs.**

West Virginia: Governor Earl Ray Tomblin (D)

January 8, 2014

<http://www.governor.wv.gov/media/pressreleases/2014/Pages/GOVERNOR-DELIVERS-STATE-OF-THE-STATE-ADDRESS.aspx>

(No reference)

Wisconsin: Governor Scott Walker (R)

January 22, 2014

<http://www.wisn.com/politics/wisconsin-politics/full-text-of-gov-scott-walkers-state-of-the-state-address/24064932>

(No reference)

Wyoming: Governor Matthew Mead (R)

February 10, 2014

<http://governor.wy.gov/Documents/2014%20State%20of%20the%20State%20Address.pdf>

...[W]e have to be attentive to education. We spend a great deal of money on education in Wyoming – rightly so – and we want to see results. Our kids, teachers, communities, and state deserve the best in education. **From early childhood education through college completion, we must keep our focus on improvement, and we will.**