



CHILD CARE & EARLY LEARNING

GOVERNORS' 2018 STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESSES: MENTIONS OF EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

This year, a total of 23 governors (14 Republicans and 9 Democrats) mentioned early care and education in their State of the State Addresses. A few of these governors offered specific proposals to increase families' access to affordable, high-quality child care and early education. For example, New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy proposed to provide an additional \$57.6 million for the state prekindergarten program as a step toward making it available statewide, while also proposing the establishment of a new child and dependent care tax credit for middle-class and working families. New Mexico Governor Susana Martinez proposed \$25 million in additional funding for child care and \$8 million in additional funding for prekindergarten. Alabama Governor Kay Ivey proposed to increase funding for the state prekindergarten program by \$23 million. However, some governors mentioned early care and education without discussing specific plans for new policies or investments. It is important that governors not just acknowledge the importance of early care and education, but also follow through with concrete steps to expand child care and early education opportunities for children and families. All governors should recognize that such investments in high-quality child care and early education greatly benefit their states by helping children start on a path to success in school and in life and by enabling parents to work and contribute to their states' economies.

Below are speech excerpts related to early care and education, along with links to each governor's complete State of the State Address (or, in the case of the Kansas, New Jersey, and Virginia governors, who were newly sworn in at the beginning of 2018 and did not deliver State of the State Addresses, the Budget Address or the Address to the Joint Assembly).

Alabama: Governor Kay Ivey (R)

<https://governor.alabama.gov/remarks-speeches/2018-state-of-the-state-address/>

January 9, 2018

For Alabamians to have career opportunities, they must be prepared when the right job comes along. My education initiative, Strong Start, Strong Finish, does just that. Under Strong Start, Strong Finish, we will coordinate our efforts and bring all stakeholders to the table in order to improve education all the way from pre-K to the workforce.

...Effective education requires a strong foundation in a child's early years. In 2017, under the leadership of Secretary Jeana Ross, Alabama's First Class Pre-K program increased the number of classrooms to 938 statewide. Research shows us that students who participate in Alabama's First Class pre-K program are more likely, than other students, to be proficient in reading and math at every grade level.

For the 11th year in a row, our First-Class Pre-K program was recognized for being the highest-quality pre-K in the nation. In fact, Harvard University is currently developing a full-length documentary on Alabama's pre-K program to share across the country with those interested in following our lead. Our First-Class pre-K is certainly a bright spot for Alabama.



...Education is the key to a better life for all. I am focused on ensuring all Alabama children get a good start and have the resources they need to complete school, be prepared for the workplace, and ultimately succeed.

..We will continue to implement Strong Start, Strong Finish, by increasing funding for our First-Class Pre-K program by an additional \$23 million dollars. I am also proposing funding for our Pre-through-3 initiative, the Jobs for Alabama's Graduates Program, and for education scholarships for math and science teachers. These additional dollars are investments in our children and young people, and thus are investments in our future.

Alaska: Governor Bill Walker (I)

<https://www.adn.com/politics/2018/01/18/watch-live-alaska-gov-bill-walker-delivers-state-of-the-state-address/>
January 18, 2018

No mention of early care and education

Arizona: Governor Doug Ducey (R)

<https://azgovernor.gov/governor/news/2018/01/watch-arizona-state-state-2018>
January 9, 2018

At the same time, **we will maintain our investments in targeted programs that are working, and making a difference for Arizona families: All-day kindergarten.** Career and technical education. Computer science and coding. Reducing waitlists. Closing the achievement gap. High-speed internet to rural schools. And new school buses.

Arkansas: Governor Asa Hutchinson (R)

<https://governor.arkansas.gov/speeches/detail/state-of-the-state>
February 12, 2018

No mention of early care and education

California: Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. (D)

<https://www.gov.ca.gov/2018/01/25/governor-brown-delivers-2018-state-of-the-state-address-california-is-setting-the-pace-for-america/>
January 25, 2018

No mention of early care and education

Colorado: Governor John Hickenlooper (D)

https://www.colorado.gov/governor/sites/default/files/2018_state_of_the_state_speech.pdf
January 11, 2018

We reconvened the Education Leadership Council to build a long-term vision and path forward. It's nonpartisan and comprehensive, with a **focus on the building blocks of a child's success from early childhood to workforce and beyond.**

Connecticut: Governor Dannel P. Malloy (D)

<http://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Governor/Press-Room/Speeches/Governor-Dannel-P-Malloys-2018-State-of-the-State-Address>
February 7, 2018

No mention of early care and education



Delaware: Governor John Carney (D)

<https://medium.com/@JohnCarneyDE/governor-carneys-2018-state-of-the-state-address-e5ea7bb1e287>

January 18, 2018

Of course, our greatest obligation in Wilmington is to our children.

...Christina School District's portion of the City schools—Bayard, Stubbs, Bancroft, Palmer, and Pulaski—need our help the most. So for the past six months, we have been trying to form a partnership with the district to lift up our city children. The state has offered Christina support for smaller class sizes, more professional development for teachers, critical capital upgrades, an early learning center, and parent supports. We are working with the Christina community to come up with ideas for using the existing school buildings in a way that is better for kids.

...Of course, the best thing we can do to invest in our state's future is to invest in quality education for every Delaware child. And we know that students are best prepared for success when they reach kindergarten ready to learn. **We need to encourage Delaware's early learning centers to invest in their programs and to continue to grow. That's why I will propose additional funding for the STARS program in next year's budget.**

...Working with you last year, we created the Opportunity Grants program to provide new resources to students who need it most. We reached thousands of students across 13 schools last year. Next week, we will be proposing additional funding for Opportunity Grants that will more than triple the number of schools receiving this support. **Schools could use this funding for things like after-school programs**, reading interventions, or other resources to help students and teachers be successful.

...My wife Tracey has been hard at work as our state's First Lady, focusing on the needs of our state's children. She secured a generous grant from Casey Family Programs to support partnerships that will give Delaware's children a better chance to succeed. ...Tracey's goal is to use the Casey grant as a catalyst to recognize and inspire partnerships to promote early care for at-risk children, end childhood hunger, promote literacy, and recognize and respond to childhood trauma. The idea is that no one agency—government or otherwise—can do it alone. Thank you, Tracey, for working to make a real difference in the lives of the children of our state.

...As an initial step toward investing in our workforce, last week, I announced my support for paid parental leave for all state employees. This is the right thing to do for our workers, and for their children.

Florida: Governor Rick Scott (R)

<https://www.flgov.com/2018/01/09/governor-rick-scotts-2018-state-of-the-state-address/>

January 9, 2018

No mention of early care and education

Georgia: Governor Nathan Deal (R)

<https://gov.georgia.gov/press-releases/2018-01-11/deal%E2%80%99s-state-state-address-%E2%80%98orchards-opportunity%E2%80%99>

January 11, 2018

As the story goes, there was once an older man who went out one day and planted a tree in his yard. A neighbor passing by saw what he was doing, stopped, shook his head, began to laugh, and said, "Old man, you are a fool. What good will it do you to plant a tree now that you are so old? You will not live long enough to be able to sit under the shade of that tree or enjoy its fruit."

The old man rose from his knees, looked at his neighbor and replied, "I am not planting this tree for me. I am planting it for those who come after me. Someday, they will come here during the heat of the day and be cooled by the shade of this tree. When I was a small child, I could eat fruit because those who came before me had planted trees. Am I not required to do the same for the next generation?"

...One such tree we planted this past year is the Sandra Dunagan Deal Center for Early Language and Literacy at the Georgia College and State University in Milledgeville. **It is a training and research center that focuses on children from birth to third**



grade—perhaps the most critical period of any child’s development and education. It is during this window of opportunity that we can best lay down a strong, enduring foundation for all other aspects of a student’s academic career. If we fail to reach Georgia’s youngest minds during that time, if we fail to get them reading on grade level by the end of third grade, they are much more likely to fall behind, both in the classroom and the life that awaits them beyond.

Hawaii: Governor David Ige (D)

<https://governor.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/2018-Gov-Ige-STATE-OF-THE-STATE.pdf>

January 22, 2018

No mention of early care and education

Idaho: Governor C.L. “Butch” Otter (R)

https://gov.idaho.gov/mediacenter/speeches/sp_2018/State%20of%20the%20State%202018.pdf

January 8, 2018

No mention of early care and education

Illinois: Governor Bruce Rauner (R)

https://www2.illinois.gov/IISNews/15319-State_of_the_State_Address_2018.pdf

January 31, 2018

The key to job creation is education and training... and we have started to transform education in our state. During our time in the executive branch, **funding for K-12 schools has increased \$1.2 billion, and that includes record levels of funding for early childhood education.**

Indiana: Governor Eric Holcomb (R)

<http://www.in.gov/gov/2972.htm>

January 9, 2018

No mention of early care and education

Iowa: Governor Kim Reynolds (R)

<https://governor.iowa.gov/2018/01/gov-reynolds-delivers-condition-of-the-state-address>

January 9, 2018

The foundation for a bright future starts early. So when we talk about unleashing opportunity and prioritizing our budget, nothing is more important to me than investing in our children.

...Since taking office seven years ago, we have added \$735 million in new money to our pre-K to 12 education systems.

Kansas: Governor Jeff Colyer (R)

<https://governor.kansas.gov/governor-jeff-colyers-joint-address/>

February 8, 2018

Finally, and perhaps the most pressing question in many of your minds, where will we go on education? And before we get to the elephant in the room, let me first thank you to the legislature for the remarkable investments you have made in early childhood education. **Early childhood education works.**



Kentucky: Governor Matt Bevin (R)

http://ketorg.cdn.ket.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/2018-Bevin-budget-speech.pdf?_ga=2.2271453.1051028073.1518810777-1812433842.1518810777

January 16, 2018

No mention of early care and education

Louisiana: Governor John Bel Edwards (D)

<http://gov.louisiana.gov/news/gov-edwards-2018-regular-session-remarks>

March 12, 2018

One of the things I've learned serving as chair of the Southern Region Education Board is that improving public education should never be a competition among states but rather a collaborative effort to learn from each other. Therefore, **we will create the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission, which will work closely in partnership with the National Governor's Association.**

Maine: Governor Paul LePage (R)

http://www.maine.gov/tools/whatsnew/index.php?topic=Gov_Speeches&id=787933&v=article2011

February 13, 2018

No mention of early care and education

Maryland: Governor Larry Hogan (R)

<http://governor.maryland.gov/2018/02/02/2018-state-of-the-state-address/>

February 2, 2018

No mention of early care and education

Massachusetts: Governor Charlie Baker (R)

<https://www.mass.gov/news/governor-baker-delivers-third-state-of-the-commonwealth-address>

January 23, 2018

In addition, **to help the next generation of students get off to a good start we delivered, with your support, one of the largest increases in funding for early childhood education in over a decade in our 2018 budget.**

All in, we've increased state spending on early education [payment] rates, delivering a \$45 million wage increase for teachers.

Michigan: Governor Rick Snyder (R)

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/snyder/2018_Michigan_State_of_the_State_Transcript_612009_7.pdf

January 23, 2018

Now, onto education. I want to talk about some of the focus initiatives we have done that will truly make a long-term difference to the young people of our state. These don't happen overnight, but making a commitment to these programs, they will make a huge difference to our children's future. Let me begin with a program we started back in 2014 and 2015, the Great Start Readiness Program for preschool. **We made the largest state preschool in the entire nation. We've more than doubled the amount of openings we have for economically disadvantaged kids from 28,000 to 64,000.** We are going to give these kids a brighter future. We later did the next step up the tier. We did some great legislation in 2016 on pre-three reading. It's not just about third grade reading; it's about pre-three reading. You learn to read through third grade. To be a successful reader after that, you have to have that ability to read. We did legislation, we are putting resources behind it to do great work to help these kids make sure we have everyone in Michigan reading well by third grade.



Minnesota: Governor Mark Dayton (D)

<http://minnesota.cbslocal.com/2018/03/14/full-transcript-gov-daytons-final-state-of-the-state-address/>

March 14, 2018

During my two terms, we have made substantial increases in our state investments in education—in our people—starting from early childhood; to universal, all-day kindergarten; all the way through elementary, secondary, and postsecondary. **This school year, nearly 80,000 children are attending all-day kindergarten and early learning programs thanks to those wise investments; and they are getting better starts in school and life because of them.**

Mississippi: Governor Phil Bryant (R)

<https://www.clarionledger.com/story/news/politics/2018/01/09/text-bryants-state-state-address/1018569001/>

January 9, 2018

Still, we have far too many failing schools whose students lag behind their counterparts across the nation. The reasons are systemic and are often related to a variety of conditions. Poverty, abuse, neglect, and lack of leadership can all be listed. To address these issues, we created the Governor’s State Early Childhood Advisory Council. SECAC is composed of state and national experts in education, health care, child welfare, mental health, and early childhood learning.

The council has become the central meeting place for all stakeholders in Mississippi’s early learning system. Its family-based system is the new blueprint for managing the spectrum of problems affecting children and for ultimately finding solutions.

Working with the Mississippi Department of Human Services and our community colleges, **the council began a program where child care workers will be receiving training to provide a learning component in day care centers.** Remember, most of our children will spend an average of 12,000 hours of their most formative years in child care or a custodial environment. SECAC also provides help, where it is needed, with health care, workforce training, or even additional educational opportunities for the parents themselves. **Our next generation of leaders are today in a child care facility.** Mississippi is looking to the horizon to make sure they have the skills needed to succeed.

You should know, Mississippi spends almost \$97 million per year on federally funded day care through the Department of Human Services and \$199 million of federal funds on Head Start centers across the state.

Missouri: Governor Eric Greitens (R)

<https://governor.mo.gov/news/archive/governor-eric-greitens-2018-state-state>

January 10, 2018

No mention of early care and education

Montana: Governor Steve Bullock (D)

No State of the State Address in 2018

Nebraska: Governor Pete Ricketts (R)

<https://governor.nebraska.gov/press/governor-ricketts-state-state-address-1>

January 10, 2018

Before I begin, I want to recognize your newest member, **Senator Theresa Thibodeau of Omaha. She is a small business owner and involved with early childhood education. Her background and experience will be a great contribution to the body.** I look forward to working with you, Senator.



Nevada: Governor Brian Sandoval (R)

No State of the State Address in 2018

New Hampshire: Governor Chris Sununu (R)

<https://www.governor.nh.gov/news-media/speeches/state-of-state-2018.htm>

February 15, 2018

Today in New Hampshire, a family's educational opportunities are growing. Whether its **access to a full-day kindergarten program** or whether a family is seeking an alternative education for their kids, a family's zip-code no longer limits their opportunity to succeed.

...There is more to do. That's why this year, **we need to pass SB 592—which expands home visiting services**, adds 16 child protective service workers, and increases foster care rates by over \$1 million.

New Jersey: Governor Phil Murphy (D)

http://www.state.nj.us/governor/news/news/562018/approved/20180313b_budget.shtml

March 13, 2018

This budget starts New Jersey down a four-year path to expanding pre-K statewide. We will add an additional \$57.6 million to build upon the \$25 million in new funding the legislature ensured for this current year for a total investment of nearly \$83 million. Decades of studies tell us that pre-K builds a strong foundation for a child's educational future. We know it has profound effects on closing the achievement gap. We know it has positive benefits that continue even into adulthood—that every dollar we put into pre-K pays us back many times over throughout that child's life. In 2008, the state made a promise to expand pre-K statewide. That promise to our next generation remains unfulfilled. This investment moves us closer to fulfilling it.

... I am equally committed to working with you to enact paid sick leave protections for all New Jersey workers—something 1.2 million New Jerseyans lack. ...A restaurant worker should not have to choose between getting a day's wages, or taking a day off from work to look after a sick family member. A child care worker should not have to choose between a paycheck, or not giving the kids in her care the flu.

...We will create a new Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit for middle-class and working families. I have heard too many stories of both young families overburdened by the escalating costs of child care and middle-aged couples who have taken on the responsibility of being the primary caretaker for an aging parent or even grandparent. This will give them greater peace of mind and a greater sense of fairness.

...I greatly respect those in this chamber who have proposed decriminalizing possession of small amounts of marijuana, and I thank them for recognizing the importance of doing what's right and just for those who carry criminal records for past possession arrests. But decriminalization alone will not put the corner dealer out of business, it will not help us protect our kids, and it will not end the racial disparities we see. If these are our goals—as they must be—then the only sensible option is the careful legalization, regulation, and taxation of marijuana sales to adults. **Legalization will allow us to reinvest directly in our communities—especially the urban neighborhoods hardest hit by the misguided War on Drugs—in their economic development, in health care and housing, child care and after-school programs, and other critical areas.** These investments will pay dividends far greater than the cost of mass incarceration.

New Mexico: Governor Susana Martinez (R)

http://www.governor.state.nm.us/uploads/PressRelease/191a415014634aa89604e0b4790e4768/Governor_Susana_Martinez_Delivers_State_of_the_State_Address_5.pdf

January 16, 2018

We want the next generation to have and seize opportunities greater than the ones we were afforded. But for that to happen, **we must believe that every child's well-being matters.** Every child is capable of learning, and regardless of race, background,



or upbringing, every child can succeed. That must be our standard.

...Through CYFD [the Children, Youth, and Families Department], we've enrolled 5,000 more kids in child care programs.

...We have 100,000 users on PullTogether.org—people who are being connected to resources or reaching out to help others, and as intended, we're seeing greater demand for important services. **That's why my budget calls for a \$25 million increase in child care services and an additional \$8 million to expand pre-K programs throughout New Mexico.** On my watch, we've already tripled the number of children who receive a pre-K education, and this new funding will allow us to serve nearly 2,000 more kids.

New York: Governor Andrew Cuomo (D)

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/video-audio-rush-transcript-governor-cuomo-outlines-2018-agenda-realizing-promise-progressive>

January 3, 2018

Our philosophy rests on two pillars: economic growth and social progress. And we must maintain those New York priorities. **We must continue our historic investment in public education and expand three- and four-year-old pre-K and after-school and computer sciences because our greatest asset is our young people and everything we do is for their future.** We must address education funding inequities and dedicate more of our state school aid to poorer districts. This year, we should even take it a step further and make sure that the local education districts that we're giving the grants to are distributing the aid to their poorer schools because that's the point. Trickle-down economics doesn't work, nor does trickle-down education funding. Local districts must give more funding to their poorer schools, period. That's only right. And that's only fair.

My father's philosophy: he called himself a "pragmatic progressive"—restoring confidence in government by actually delivering practical accomplishments: people need food, people need housing, people need education, people need justice—they don't need theoretical progressive politics, they need practical politics, actual politics, that makes a difference in their lives because they're suffering today and they need life made better for them. And that my friends, is what we have done—marriage equality, **paid family leave**, \$15 minimum wage, free college tuition, gun safety, the climate coalition, and MWBE [Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises]. No other state has done what we have done—we are once again the nation's vanguard for social progress and you should feel good and proud about that accomplishment.

North Carolina: Governor Roy Cooper (D)

No State of the State Address in 2018

North Dakota: Governor Doug Burgum (R)

<https://www.governor.nd.gov/sites/governor/files/documents/State%20of%20the%20State%20transcript%20clean.pdf>

January 23, 2018

No mention of early care and education

Ohio: Governor John Kasich (R)

<http://www.governor.ohio.gov/Portals/0/pdf/2018%20Ohio%20State%20of%20the%20State%20Transcript.pdf?ver=2018-03-09-154437-083×tamp=1520628340376>

March 6, 2018

No mention of early care and education



Oklahoma: Governor Mary Fallin (R)

<https://www.ok.gov/governor/documents/2-5-18%20FINAL%20Governor%20Mary%20Fallin%20State%20of%20the%20State.pdf>

February 5, 2018

No mention of early care and education

Oregon: Governor Kate Brown (D)

<http://www.oregon.gov/gov/media/Pages/speeches/State-of-the-State-2018.aspx>

February 5, 2018

No mention of early care and education

Pennsylvania: Governor Tom Wolf (D)

<https://www.governor.pa.gov/remarks-by-governor-wolf-at-2018-budget-address/>

February 6, 2018

Over the last three years, we've invested in our schools and reversed the billion dollars in cuts that were made under the previous administration, cuts that led to larger class sizes, mass layoffs of educators, and cuts to programs like full-day kindergarten.

And we've already begun to see those investments pay off.

Today, we have nearly 100,000 students enrolled in full-day kindergarten, and we've increased the number of kids able to attend prekindergarten by nearly half.

Rhode Island: Governor Gina Raimondo (D)

<http://www.governor.ri.gov/newsroom/speeches/2018/state-of-the-state.php>

January 16, 2018

We've made record investments in education, and we're committed to ensuring that everyone has a shot to continue their education past high school. **Today, there are three times as many public pre-K classrooms as there were four years ago. We've guaranteed all-day kindergarten for every child in Rhode Island.** And more than 1,500 Rhode Islanders are getting a shot at a career because we're the first state on the East Coast that's made community college tuition-free. But there's so much left to do. So let's keep going.

...We've also been listening. We've listened to Rhode Islanders who felt like their leaders weren't doing enough to support them: We raised the minimum wage, and we're gonna do it again next year. We passed paid sick leave, because no Rhode Islander should have to choose between a paycheck and taking care of a sick child at home. **We've improved the quality of child care so parents can have peace of mind while they're at work.** And we listened to seniors like my mom, who say it's too hard to live on a fixed income, and we cut the tax on their Social Security.

South Carolina: Governor Henry McMaster (R)

<http://governor.sc.gov/Newsroom/Pages/2018StateoftheState.aspx>

January 24, 2018

No mention of early care and education



South Dakota: Governor Dennis Daugaard (R)

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/6jffmfmidh22fod/2018-01-09%20State%20of%20the%20State%20Transcript.docx?dl=0>

January 9, 2018

And for those families whose income goes up, **we will provide interim resources such as child care assistance** and premium assistance to support families as they transition off Medicaid.

Tennessee: Governor Bill Haslam (R)

https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/governorsoffice-documents/governorsoffice-documents/sots-2018/2018_Haslam_SOTS_address.pdf

January 29, 2018

No mention of early care and education

Texas: Governor Greg Abbott (R)

No State of the State Address in 2018

Utah: Governor Gary Herbert (R)

<https://governorblog.utah.gov/2018/01/governor-herberts-2018-state-of-the-state-address/>

January 24, 2018

No mention of early care and education

Vermont: Governor Phil Scott (R)

<http://governor.vermont.gov/sites/scott/files/documents/Governor%20Phil%20Scott%20-%202018%20State%20of%20the%20State%20Address.pdf>

January 4, 2018

If we work together to transform our K-through-12 system, based on the needs of our kids and not nostalgia, we can invest much more in early care and learning, technical education, workforce readiness training, and higher education without raising the price tag on Vermonters.

We made some progress towards this Cradle-to-Career vision last year, **increasing investments in our Child Care Financial Assistance Program by \$2.5 million** and in the Vermont State College System by \$3 million.

Virginia: Governor Ralph Northam (D)

<http://governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/newsarticle?articleId=25207>

January 15, 2018

[First Lady of the Commonwealth of Virginia Pam Northam] spent much of her career as an elementary school science teacher—**she shares my passion for early childhood education and the belief that there is tremendous power in every child.**

Washington: Governor Jay Inslee (D)

<https://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2018SotS.PDF>

January 9, 2018

No mention of early care and education



West Virginia: Governor Jim Justice (R)

<http://governor.wv.gov/News/press-releases/2018/Pages/2018-West-Virginia-State-of-the-State-Address.aspx>

January 10, 2018

No mention of early care and education

Wisconsin: Governor Scott Walker (R)

https://walker.wi.gov/sites/default/files/speeches/transcript/Wisconsin_2018_SOTS_Address.pdf

January 24, 2018

No mention of early care and education

Wyoming: Governor Matt Mead (R)

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1C6TFp2coelWsxOEEe-kfOH9DNIH2Juh1/view>

February 12, 2018

No mention of early care and education

