

State Early Care and Education Public Policy Developments: *Fiscal Year 2012*

For Fiscal Year 2012, states faced many funding and policy challenges as a result of budget deficits. States continued to spend down their federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds while they faced severe crises with their own funds. As a result, many of the highlights in this document reflect reductions in state investments in early childhood education, higher education, and elementary and secondary public education. Several states reduced their public contributions to private-public partnerships and followed the previous year's trend of changes to the child care subsidy system (particularly in family eligibility and co-payments) that negatively impacted access to child care by low-income families.

One of the most noticeable trends was the reduction of state funds for prekindergarten programs. Although some states were able to maintain their funding with remaining ARRA funds, 19 out of the 40 states with pre-K programs reduced their per-child funding. According to the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, 37 states reduced their investments in public elementary and secondary education and 30 states reduced spending on K-12 education to 2008 levels. A report by the National Women's Law Center shows that state child care subsidy policies were worse in at least one category than in 2010.

Despite tight finances, some states have continued building their early childhood systems through their Advisory Councils on Early Childhood Education and Care (also known as Early Childhood Advisory Councils) and through enhancing or implementing their quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS) and professional development systems. The continued focus on and investment in building statewide early childhood data systems and on refining and expanding QRIS (key components of the federal Race to The Top—Early Learning Challenge grants) show that certain policy changes can work hand in hand with the federal vision and plans for state investment in early care and education.

Several states also benefitted from the new Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program, enacted in March 2010 as part of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Over five years, the federal program will award \$1.5B to states to expand evidence-based, voluntary home-visiting programs for pregnant women and caregivers of young children in at-risk communities.

Another key development has been the Common Core State Standards for K–12 English Language Arts and Mathematics, which were finalized in June 2010. To date, 41 states (including the District of Columbia) have adopted these standards.

This document is only a highlight of state developments. It does not include all legislation filed or other pending policy changes; instead, it highlights selected enacted legislation; new initiatives approved by the state executive branch; major funding increases, decreases, or level-funding; and additional significant fiscal or policy changes that impact early childhood education.

In this report, state developments are categorized by issue areas:

- u State Advisory Councils on Early Childhood Education and Care
- u Governance
- u Professional Development
- u Data Systems
- u Quality Rating and Improvement Systems
- u Child Care Subsidies
- u Child Care Regulations
- u Birth–20 Systems
- u Public-Private Partnerships
- u Family Engagement
- u Infant/Toddler
- u Prekindergarten
- u Kindergarten
- u Birth–5
- u Facilities
- u Third Grade Reading Proficiency
- u Literacy
- u Public Schools
- u Health Care
- u Inclusion
- u Early Intervention
- u Autism
- u Child Immunizations
- u Home Visiting
- u Environmental Health
- u Ballot Initiatives

For more NAEYC State Development Resources, visit www.naeyc.org/policy/statetrends.

Additional Resources:

- † Common Core State Standards Initiative: www.corestandards.org/in-the-states
- † Report on state K–12 cuts from the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities: www.cbpp.org/cms/?fa=view&id=3569
- † Report on subsidies by the National Women’s Law Center: www.nwlc.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/state_child_care_assistance_policies_report2011_final.pdf



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State Advisory Councils on Early Childhood Education and Care

Minnesota's Governor Mark Dayton re-established the state's Early Learning Council.

The **Montana** governor's office named the Best Beginnings Advisory Council as the state's early childhood education and care advisory council.

SPARK NH, the **New Hampshire** Early Childhood Advisory Council created by executive order, will address the following goals: (1) strengthen the state's early childhood infrastructure; (2) coordinate the development and implementation of an integrated and comprehensive strategic plan for early childhood; (3) develop a framework to evaluate the council's outcomes/impacts, including the progress of young children and their families; and (4) foster public awareness of, promote access to, and build commitment for quality early childhood programs and services.

The **New Mexico** state legislature passed the Early Childhood Care and Education Act that (1) defines the attributes of a high-quality early learning system, and (2) creates the New Mexico Early Learning Advisory Council (outlining membership and responsibilities).

Oregon's SB 909 established the Early Learning Council, which will report to the Oregon Education Investment Board and help the board oversee a unified system of early childhood services, including funding and administration. The council will be staffed by an early childhood system director to be appointed by the governor. The council is required to conduct an analysis of plans to merge, redesign, or improve the coordination of early childhood services and to align the services with child-centered outcomes. The council, which must develop a plan to implement early childhood services by June 30, 2012, is charged with

- | ensuring the early identification of children and families who are susceptible to certain risk factors based upon identified, critical indicators.
- | establishing and maintaining family support managers.
- | coordinating the support services provided to children and families.
- | ensuring that contracts with early childhood services providers require measured progress, establish goals, and provide payment based on the success of the provider in achieving these goals.
- | establishing kindergarten readiness assessments and early learning benchmarks.
- | collecting and evaluating data related to early childhood services to ensure that stated goals are being achieved.

The **Washington** state legislature passed **SB 5389** to align the membership of the state's early learning advisory council with federal requirements in the Head Start Act of 2007. Four of seven council members appointed by the governor must be the Head Start State Collaboration Office director or director's designee; a representative of a Head Start, Early Head Start, Migrant/Seasonal Head Start, or Tribal Head Start program; a representative of a local education agency; and a

Governance

representative of the state agency responsible for programs under Part C of IDEA.

California Governor Jerry Brown signed the budget trailer bill, which includes a funding shift in child development programs (with the exception of part-day state preschool) out of Proposition 98 beginning in FY 11–12. If revenues fall short of projections, a mid-year “trigger” mechanism would enact further cuts to education and could decrease investments in child development programs.

Florida Governor Rick Scott signed **SB 2156**, a governmental reorganization bill that establishes the Office of Early Learning within the Department of Education. This new office will administer the state’s school readiness system and the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program. It will also house and oversee the Florida Early Learning Advisory Council.

Maine Governor Paul LePage signed a bill establishing a commission to study allocations of the Fund for a Healthy Maine. The fund supports many early childhood programs such as prenatal and child care up to age 15 and includes home visits and support for parents of children from birth to 6.

Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton created a new Office of Early Learning. The governor also announced that the commissioners of Education, Health, and Human Services will lead a Children’s Cabinet.

Colorado’s state funding for the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Project was decreased by 29.4 percent.

In June 2010 the **Massachusetts** Department of Early Education and Care launched its professional qualifications registry to regularly gather accurate data on the demographics, credentials, and competencies of the early educator workforce. Early educators have registered in increasing numbers, and the department is still accepting new registrants and renewing registrants in FY12.

New Hampshire’s Board of Education approved updated certification standards for teachers of early childhood education and early childhood special education. The new certification requirements include coursework to align with the professional development credential for child care within the state’s Department of Health and Human Services. Included are requirements for multiage teaching experiences, a parenting curriculum, wellness for children, and screening/assessment skills.

In **North Carolina** the funding source for the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Project was changed to the Child Care and Development Block Grant and state pre-K funds.

Professional Development

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Professional Development cont.

In a proclamation, **North Carolina** Governor Bev Perdue encouraged the state's higher education institutions to develop articulation agreements between two- and four-year degree programs. The proclamation encourages community colleges that participate in those agreements to become "accredited within three years by the Early Childhood Associates Degree Accreditation Program of the National Association for the Education of Young Children."

North Dakota's state legislature appropriated **\$3.1M** for training, technical assistance, and grants for early childhood providers and an additional **\$150,000** for providers seeking to obtain an associate or bachelor's degree in early childhood education.

Oregon extended contracts for training funds for early childhood providers for one year.

Due to a reduction in funding, the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Project in **Pennsylvania** will provide scholarships only to the recipients who have the fewest remaining credits toward earning a degree. Most of the 160 recipients are expected to graduate this year.

\$3M in funding for **Washington's** Career and Wage Ladder program was eliminated. As a result, contracts with at least 55 child care centers were rescinded.

Wisconsin allocated the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Project an additional \$500,000 per year, sustaining an increase approved in 2010 by the Joint Finance to help launch YoungStar, the state's QRIS. The increase brings the annual program budget to **\$4M**.

Data Systems

Delaware created a governance process for sharing data across state entities. This will establish a data-sharing network for the state's early childhood system.

In July 2011 the **Massachusetts** Department of Early Education and Care released its vision document for an early childhood information system (ECIS) to share data on young children across all state agencies (including the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education); provide targeted communication to families on child development; and help families address certain risk factors.

The **New Mexico** Early Learning Advisory Council is building a data warehouse in collaboration with the Department of Health. Work has been done to aggregate child and family risk indicators and to rank communities most at risk for school failure and adverse childhood experiences.

The **Oregon** Education Investment Board, newly established by **SB 909**, is charged with ensuring that an integrated, student-based data system to monitor expenditures and outcomes is operating on or before June 30, 2012.

Data Systems cont.

Pennsylvania Governor Tom Corbett signed **Act 24 of 2011** into law, establishing a moratorium on the collection of certain data in the Pennsylvania Enterprise to Link Information for Children Across Networks (PELICAN), the Office of Child Development and Early Learning's integrated early learning information technology system. During the moratorium, in effect for school years 2011–12 and 2012–13, only data used for the following purposes may be collected in PELICAN:

- l to meet federal requirements and eligibility rules for federal funding.
- l to supervise, license, or register a child care provider.
- l to ensure child care personnel and family child care home residents meet background check requirements under law.
- l to issue Commonwealth payments and reimbursements.

Act 24 required that all impacted program participants be notified by August 1, 2011, of the data elements required to be submitted into PELICAN during the moratorium period. A report on data collection must be provided to certain legislative committees by February 1, 2012.

Quality Rating and Improvement Systems

Language in **HB 1027** (concerning a Department of Defense Quality Child Care Standards pilot program) states that by December 30, 2013, the **Colorado** Department of Human Services must develop a quality rating and improvement system “that is inclusive, accessible, available to all child care providers, embedded in licensing, and reflective of evidence-based practices for successful outcomes for all children and families.”

Delaware's General Assembly passed Governor Jack Markell's proposal for a permanent budget line-item dedicated to the state's early childhood system—**\$13M** of which will be used to fund tiered reimbursement for programs that participate in Delaware Stars, the state's QRIS. Programs receiving a 3-star rating will be reimbursed at 80 percent of the market rate; Star 4 programs will get 90 percent of the market rate; and Star 5 programs will receive 100 percent of the market rate.

The **Massachusetts** Department of Early Education and Care launched a statewide QRIS in January 2011, with **\$2.8M** in quality improvement grants awarded to 449 programs participating in the mixed-provider system.

Minnesota's Governor Mark Dayton announced that Parent Aware, the state's pilot QRIS, will continue under current statutory authority. Because funding was not included in the final FY12 budget, Parent Aware was set to expire, but the state is reallocating existing quality Child Care and Development Block Grant funds to expand the program. Parent Aware is a voluntary QRIS for early care and education programs, including licensed family child care programs, child care centers, Head Start/Early Head Start, and school readiness programs. It is being piloted in four Minnesota communities with approximately 400 programs serving 22,000 children. Programs are awarded one to four stars depending on the number of points received in four categories: family partnerships; teaching materials and strategies; tracking learning; and teacher training and education.

Quality Rating and Improvement Systems *cont.*

Accredited child care programs, school readiness programs, and Head Start programs are automatically given a 4-star rating if they demonstrate compliance with licensing or applicable program performance standards.

The **New Mexico** Children, Youth and Families Department is piloting its third generation of a QRIS. All licensed child care programs in the state are required to participate in the QRIS, which was first introduced as a voluntary initiative in the mid-1990s. The first two levels of the QRIS have now been incorporated into the state's minimal licensing regulations. The newest version of the QRIS focuses on incorporating the state's Early Learning Guidelines and implementing an authentic observation, documentation, and curriculum planning process.

The **North Carolina** General Assembly made several changes in the FY12 budget bill that impacted child care programs that accept subsidies, as well as higher star-rated programs:

- | Child care subsidy reimbursements will only be paid to programs that are at 3, 4, or 5 stars. No unlicensed programs or 1- and 2-star programs will be eligible to receive subsidy reimbursement payments. One- and two-star programs have a year to earn their 3-, 4-, or 5-star rating in order to continue to participate in the state's subsidized child care system.
- | A curriculum will be required in all 4- and 5-star centers and family child care homes that serve children who are 4 years old.
- | In acknowledgment of increased requirements, market rate payments to 4- and 5-star programs may be increased.

A portion of the **\$27.7M** for each year of the biennium that the **Ohio** state legislature appropriated will support technical assistance and quality payments to providers who demonstrate increased levels of quality that lead to better child outcomes. In addition, enhanced child care subsidy payments and quality achievement awards will be maintained for star-rated programs participating in Step Up to Quality.

New York began field-testing and developing QUALITYstarsNY, designed to improve quality and provide supports such as technical assistance and professional development, in 2010. While participation is not required, programs that do participate will gain access to support services and financial benefits. Based on the field test, new quality standards for school-age child care programs are being drafted and will be ready for review by the end of 2011.

Pennsylvania's QRIS, Keystone Stars, was level-funded for FY12 in spite of proposed cuts.

Washington's Seeds to Success two-year field test concluded on June 30, 2011. The Department of Early Learning (DEL) is beginning a process for expanding the pilot statewide by inviting up to 60 field test participants to become "early adopters" of the final QRIS model. Early adopters must meet certain requirements and express a willingness to assist with system

Quality Rating and Improvement Systems *cont.*

development (including the development of an integrated data system and core training). Early adopters will continue to receive coaching, scholarships, training, and incentives to support quality improvement efforts during the first year of expansion. During the second phase of expansion, to begin in July 2012, DEL hopes to add an additional 100 facilities to Seeds to Success. Along with private sector support, **\$1.3M** in Child Care and Development Block Grant quality funds will be used to support this expansion.

Several changes to **Wisconsin's** QRIS, YoungStar, were approved:

- | A new tiered reimbursement schedule, to become effective on July 1, 2012, specifies that programs
 - u at the 1-star level will receive no differential payment above the base child care reimbursement rate.
 - u at the 2-star level will receive a decrease of 5 percent in their differential reimbursement payment.
 - u at the 3-star level will see no change in their differential reimbursement payment.
 - u at the 4-star level will receive an increase of 5 percent in their differential reimbursement payment.
 - u at the 5-star level will receive an increase of 10 percent in their differential reimbursement payment.
- | As of January 1, 2013, the increase to the payment rate for 5-star programs will be up to 25 percent. For this purpose, \$1.7M was added to the tiered reimbursement budget.
- | The Department of Children and Families has the discretion to create the severity index to determine which programs are significantly out of compliance and can no longer be rated as 1 star. No rule process is required.

Child Care Subsidies

California's final FY12 budget reduced funding for child development programs by 11 percent across the board. However, the budget does maintain the current standard reimbursement rate, eliminates the 10 percent family fee increase, and continues subsidized child care for 11- and 12-year-olds.

The **Delaware** State General Assembly appropriated an additional **\$9M** to raise the state child care reimbursement rate to 65 percent plus an additional 50 cents per child per day based on the newly established 2011 market rate.

Florida's state budget has been reduced by 14 percent, potentially resulting in 11,000 children losing school readiness services.

The **Illinois** General Assembly cut child care assistance by **\$2.8M**.

In **Maine**, **\$1M** was cut in funding for child care subsidies.

Child Care Subsidies *cont.*

Minnesota made the following changes to the child care subsidy system:

- | A 2.5 percent reduction in reimbursement rates for licensed child care providers and a 14.5 percent reduction in reimbursement rates for legally unlicensed child care providers as of October 31, 2011.
- | A reduction in absent day reimbursements from 25 days per calendar year to 10 days for licensed child care providers and an elimination of absent day reimbursements for legally unlicensed child care providers, beginning January 1, 2013.
- | Elimination of payments for nonstandard hours of care and activity fees as of September 3, 2012.
- | Prohibiting child care payments exceeding daily/weekly maximum rates after April 16, 2012.
- | Prohibiting reimbursements for child care services by a provider who resides in the same residence as a child as of March 5, 2012.
- | Limiting Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) payments for child care centers that receive CCAP payments for children if a parent or a person who resides with the child is employed at the center as of January 1, 2013.
- | Requiring first aid, CPR, and additional training every two years as a part of the registration requirements for legally unlicensed child care providers as of November 1, 2011.
- | Reallocating **\$5M** in remaining basic sliding-fee child care assistance funds from calendar year 2010 to the general fund.

In **New Hampshire**, funding for child care subsidies was reduced by **\$8M**. Cuts to child care subsidies were also made in FY11, creating a subsidy wait list.

In **North Carolina**, the Appropriations Act of 2011 reduced funding for the subsidized child care program for FY12 by **\$19.2M**. This cut eliminates payments for transportation and registration and also reduces subsidy payments to support post-secondary education (from 24 to 20 months). Included in this reduction is \$6.3M in one-time TANF funds.

The **Ohio** Department of Jobs and Family Services (ODJFS) will lower the child care eligibility intake level from 150 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) to 125 percent and reduce provider reimbursement rates by 7 percent (**\$40M**) per year in both FY12 and FY13. The state used \$69M of Child Care and Development Block Grant ARRA funds and \$46M of TANF ARRA funds for child care subsidies and has not replaced this funding with state monies.

Pending final review during the February 2012 legislative session, **Oregon** will reduce the caseload cap for employment related child care to 9,000 for July through December 2011; 9,500 for January through December 2012; and 10,000 for January through June 2013. The state granted a one-year extension of contracts for child care provided to targeted populations, including teen parents, children with special needs, migrant and seasonal farm workers, and mothers in drug and alcohol treatment programs.

In **Pennsylvania** funding for the administration of Child Care Works was reduced, the reimbursement rate to providers for nontraditional care during the evening or weekend was eliminated, and parents are now required to pay higher copayments for subsidized child care. These reductions will not result in a decrease in the number of children receiving services through Child Care Works.

Rhode Island's FY12 budget maintains the current income eligibility requirement for subsidized child care at or below 180 percent of the FPL and child care reimbursement rates at the average 2002 and 2004 market rates.

South Dakota lowered family income eligibility for child care assistance from 200 percent to 175 percent of the FPL.

In **Washington**, the following changes were made to the state's primary child care subsidy programs, Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) and Seasonal Child Care (SCC), on August 24, 2011:

- | Creation of WCCC entry caps and waiting lists when appropriate. Young parents who are not living with their parent/guardian and who are full-time students in a high school that has school-sponsored, on-site child care now receive priority on the waiting list in effect since March 1, 2011.
- | Reduction of family income eligibility limits for WCCC and SCC from 200 percent of the FPL to 175 percent as of October 2010. TANF recipients and families of children with special needs receive priority access to WCCC as of March 1, 2011. Child care benefits will be on a first-come, first-served basis for remaining families with incomes at 175 percent or less of the FPL until the program reaches a set monthly limit of 35,200 families.
- | Family copayments increase to \$65 per month for families with incomes between 82 percent and 137.5 percent of the FPL as of March 1, 2011.
- | Increases in monthly co-payments for families with incomes above 137.5 percent of the FPL are determined using a sliding fee scale.
- | Copayments for families with incomes at or below 82 percent of the FPL are maintained at \$15 per month.
- | Families enrolled in WCCC are required to reapply before their current eligibility period ends in order to avoid losing their benefits.
- | Field-trip fee reimbursements are limited for child care providers, licensed or certified family child care providers as of February 1, 2011.
- | Parents applying for or receiving WCCC or SCC must apply for child support services unless the parent proves to have a good cause for not applying.
- | A standard 6-month WCCC eligibility period is set for most families.
- | Parent and child eligibility must be considered separately and a child receiving WCCC or SCC benefits must be a U.S. citizen or legal resident.
- | There is a reduction in funds appropriated for SCC eligibility and outreach by community organizations.

Child Care Subsidies *cont.*

SB 5921 requires the **Washington** Departments of Early Learning and Social and Health Services to assess the state's current subsidized child care eligibility determination system and report to the legislature by December 31, 2011. The report must include recommendations to improve the accuracy, efficiency, and responsiveness of the system. Each department must submit a proposed implementation timeline through January 2013 that identifies various methods and combinations of methods to track subsidized child care attendance.

The **Wisconsin** Department of Children and Families reduced Wisconsin Shares payments to licensed family child care homes by changing the basis of payment rates from child enrollment to hours attended.

Child Care Regulations

Colorado mandated that all new child care employees have both Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and FBI background checks as of August 2011. Previously, both background fingerprint checks for new employees were required only if the person had not resided continuously in the state for the past 24 months. Child care centers are responsible for paying the cost of the additional FBI check. **HB 1102** permits the same background check performed for one child care center to be used by another center owned and operated by the same common ownership group or school district. To transfer employment without requiring a new background check, the common ownership group or school district must maintain a central records management system for employees, take necessary steps when background checks require action, and inform the Department of Human Services of any change in facility ownership or control.

The **Delaware** General Assembly established an Office of Child Care Licensing (OCCL) advisory panel. Early care and education providers on the panel will contribute input during the OCCL's regulation revision processes.

Minnesota's child care center annual license rates were reduced as of July 1, 2011. The state's Department of Human Services background checks now require that providers pay up to an additional \$20 per study as of July 1, 2011. The state legislature instituted changes to family child care regulations. Child care programs located in a commercial space can now be licensed if

- | the program complies with local zoning regulations.
- | the program complies with the specified fire code.
- | age and capacity limitations set by the fire code inspection and square footage dimensions are printed on the license.
- | the license, containing the phrase, "This special family child care provider is not licensed as a child care center," is visibly displayed.

North Carolina replaced the mandatory requirement for all child care teachers to be certified by the state's Institute for Child Development Professionals with a voluntary option, as of July 1, 2011.

Child Care Regulations *cont.*

Washington's state legislature made the following changes to the state's child care licensing regulations:

- | **HB 1419** requires the Departments of Social and Health Services (DSHS) and Early Learning (DEL) to share fingerprint-based background check results for individuals who may have unsupervised access to vulnerable children or adults in licensed care.
- | **HB 1776** requires DEL to address health and safety requirements for child care programs that serve school-age children and are operated in buildings that contain public or private schools. DEL must do so through an interagency process involving the state fire marshal.
- | **HB 1903** mandates that all first-time applicants obtain a fingerprint-based background check. DEL must establish and maintain an individual-based background check clearance registry by July 1, 2012.
- | **SB 5504** allows DEL to impose civil monetary penalties for an unlicensed family child care home (not to exceed \$150 per violation). If a family child care provider does not initiate the licensing process within 30 days of receiving notice by DEL that a license is required, the name of the noncompliant home will be posted on the DEL public website. DEL must send notice within 10 days to a home that is suspected of providing child care services without a license.
- | **SB 5625** eliminates the requirement that all fully licensed child care providers must re-apply for licensure every three years. Full licenses will now remain valid if licensees continue to submit required information and fees.
- | Licensing fees are increased to \$30 for family child care homes and to a \$125 base rate plus a \$12 per child capacity fee (for all children after the first 12 children) for child care centers.

Birth–20 Systems

SB 909 established the **Oregon** Education Investment Board to ensure that all public school students reach the education outcomes established for the state. The board will oversee a unified system that begins with early childhood services and continues through post-secondary education. A chief education officer will be appointed and appropriated funding through the newly established Oregon Education Investment Fund. The duties of the board include

- | ensuring that early childhood services are streamlined and connected to K–12 public education and that K–12 public education is streamlined and connected to post-secondary education.
- | overseeing the newly established Oregon Early Learning Council.
- | recommending strategic investments.
- | overseeing the development of an integrated, statewide, student-based data system to monitor expenditures and outcomes to determine the return on education investments.
- | submitting a report to the interim legislative committees on education on or before December 15, 2011.

Public-Private Partnerships

In **Alaska**, the state's contribution to Best Beginnings, a public-private partnership, was reduced by \$180,000 to **\$612,500** for FY12. Funding for Best Beginnings supports local partnerships, an imagination library, and public education and awareness.

The **New Mexico** Early Childhood Care and Education Act created a fund that can accept both public and private funds for the establishment of a high-quality early learning system.

The **North Carolina** General Assembly approved a 20 percent reduction in Smart Start funding, reducing the state allocation to the North Carolina Partnership for Children by **\$37.6M**. Special provision language still requires local partnerships to expend at least \$52M on child care subsidy activities that can be counted toward TANF Maintenance of Effort (MOE) and the Child Care and Development Block Grant match requirement for FY12. In addition, the amount of state money paid for an individual's salary in a local partnership is capped at \$60,000 and in the NC Partnership at \$80,000. Smart Start is also required to develop and fund an early literacy pilot program. A legislative research commission is authorized to study the cost, quality, consumer education component, and outcomes of Smart Start.

HB 1965 requires the **Washington** Departments of Early Learning (DEL) and Social and Health Services (DSHS) to collaboratively develop a nongovernmental, private-public initiative to coordinate investments in child development and prevention of adverse childhood experiences. The Council for Children and Families and DEL were tasked with developing a transition plan beginning July 1, 2011.

Family Engagement

The **Rhode Island** General Assembly established a Family Engagement Advisory Council to advise the governor, the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Board of Regents, and school districts about how to foster family-school partnerships.

Infant/Toddler

In **Alaska** the Infant Learning Program was level-funded at **\$6.5M** to support direct services for children from birth to age 3.

Massachusetts's Department of Early Education and Care released Early Learning Guidelines for Infants and Toddlers in November 2010.

Prekindergarten

Alaska's Head Start state supplement was level-funded at **\$7.3M**. Head Start and Early Head Start programs were expanded using ARRA funding, with the enhanced funding now shifted into state base funding. Pre-K was level-funded for FY12. To maintain future pre-K funding, \$1M was set aside in base funding and an additional \$1M was set aside as future funding.

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The **Florida** state legislature cut voluntary prekindergarten funding by \$30M to **\$384.6M**, reducing the per student allocation from \$2,553 to \$2,383.

In **Florida, SB 1696** requires the performance standards for the statewide kindergarten screening tool to be periodically reviewed and revised by the Department of Education to align with the standards for statewide assessment performance. To track the progress of private providers in helping students meet the minimum state readiness measures, the department is required to annually report the percentage of students who meet these measures. Providers that do not meet the minimum will be placed on probation and required to develop and implement an improvement plan. This bill also removes a limitation on the minimum kindergarten readiness rate for private and public pre-K providers.

In **Minnesota, \$4M** was appropriated for early childhood education scholarship grants for public and private preschool programs serving children age 3–5, starting July 1, 2012. The commissioner of education must submit a plan for implementing these scholarships to the legislature by January 15, 2012.

The **North Carolina** General Assembly made the following FY12 changes to the state's prekindergarten program:

- | Funding for the program was reduced by 20 percent.
- | The requirement for a parent co-pay that was included in the budget provisions was overridden by judicial order. Children to be served at no charge are those who are financially at risk (at or below 75 percent of state median income) or have an established individualized education plan (IEP). Other eligible children who are above income but have a chronic health disorder, are dual language learners, or have a developmental need can be served but would be assessed a co-pay. Certain military families can receive services without a co-pay.
- | Administration was transferred from the Department of Public Instruction to the Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE) in the Department of Health and Human Services.
- | The program, formerly known as More at Four, was renamed the North Carolina Pre-Kindergarten (NC Pre-K) program.
- | The NC Pre-K program is now required to participate in the Subsidized Early Education for Kids (SEEK) accounting system.
- | Licensing consultants at the Regulatory Services Section of the DCDEE will now monitor NC Pre-K programs.
- | Classrooms in public schools that are not currently licensed by DCDEE have until July 1, 2012, to become licensed.
- | A transition plan was developed and provided to Governor Perdue on October 10th as required by Executive Order 100. This plan included the time line to respond to the judicial order that required ensuring access for all at risk 4-year-olds. The governor submitted the plan to leadership at the General Assembly and identified \$30M that could be

Prekindergarten cont.

used this year to serve an additional 6,300 children. At this time, there has not been a response.

The **Ohio** Department of Education prioritized early childhood education in the FY12 and FY13 budget by level-funding the school readiness program at **\$23.2M** per year. This funding will provide services to 5,700 children.

The **Oregon** state legislature increased funding for Head Start Prekindergarten by **\$17M** for FY12.

In **Pennsylvania**, funding for Pre-K Counts and the Head Start state supplement were reduced by 1 percent.

The **Rhode Island** General Assembly did not allocate categorical funding for state prekindergarten in the FY12 budget. The program currently serves 126 children per year in four urban communities. The Head Start state supplement was level-funded at **\$800,000**. To support the 156 state-funded slots, \$200,000 was allocated for Head Start in state-directed federal funding.

Washington is using **\$2.3M** in Child Care and Development Block Grant funding to expand the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program by 165 slots.

In **Wisconsin** the start-up fund for school districts to start 4K was reduced by 10 percent (\$150,000) to **\$1.4M** annually, and the Head Start state supplement was reduced by 10 percent (\$700,000) for an annual allocation of **\$6.3M**.

Kindergarten

In **New Hampshire** the defeat of **HB 631** preserved mandatory public kindergarten. In the 2011–12 school year, a record-high 30 percent of all public kindergartens will be full day.

Washington will implement the Washington Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (WaKIDS) using private funds and **\$900,000** of state funds in FY12. State-funded full-day kindergarten classrooms can volunteer to administer the program. **SB 5427** requires that WaKIDS must be administered to all students enrolled in state-funded all-day kindergarten programs beginning in the 2012–13 school year.

Birth–5

The **Illinois** General Assembly reduced Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG) funding by 5 percent (**\$17M**) from the FY11 appropriation.

Facilities

In **Minnesota**, funding was reduced for the Child Care Facility Improvement grants by \$163,000 through the Health and Human Services bill, while **\$1.9M** was allocated for early childhood facility grants through the bond bill. These grants are for renovation and new construction of public facilities.

Third Grade Reading Proficiency

The **New Hampshire** General Court passed legislation that will require 80 percent of a district's third grade population to be 100 percent reading proficient. This is part of Governor John Lynch's initiative to build systemic responsibility for literacy and academic achievement and for the state to have a 0 percent high school dropout rate.

Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker created Learn to Read, an initiative to improve third grade reading proficiency.

Literacy

In November 2010 **Massachusetts** Governor Deval Patrick convened the joint departmental committee of all commissioners and board members of the departments of Early Education and Care, Education, and Higher Education to focus on early literacy.

New Hampshire's Literacy Plan has been expanded to include resources for children age birth through 6. Language progressions, materials, parenting and teacher tips are now a part of the statewide literacy initiative.

Public Schools

In **Illinois** the FY12 operating budget containing the elementary and secondary education budget appropriates **\$6.9B** to the State Board of Education. While the distribution per pupil will remain at \$6,119, the appropriation overall is \$171M less than FY11.

New Hampshire maintained building aid funding for some projects and the hold on any new projects (unless significant structural issues arise in a school building). Funding for vocational education and catastrophic special education were level-funded.

The **Rhode Island** General Assembly increased appropriations to school districts for state education aid by \$17.6M to **\$708M** for FY12. The legislature funded the first year of the new state's new education funding formula, which provides **\$17.6M** in additional education funding based on enrollment data and participation in free and reduced-price meal data.

The **South Dakota** state legislature reduced funding for K-12 education by 8.6 percent.

While there were no specified cuts to 4K (4-year-old kindergarten) basic funding in **Wisconsin**, **\$800M** (9 percent) in school funding cuts for FY12 could affect school districts' funding of 4K.

Health Care

In **Alaska**, Denali Kid Care eligibility guidelines remain at 175 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL).

In **Rhode Island**, eligibility levels for RIte Care were maintained at 175 percent of the FPL for parents and 250 percent of the FPL for children.

In **Utah**, **HB 0256** requires the Department of Health to apply for grants to fund a simplified enrollment and renewal process for CHIP and Medicaid. If funding is available, the Department will establish such a process for the programs in which an eligibility worker can confirm the adjusted gross income of the applicant from state tax records.

Funding for **Washington's** Apple Health for Kids program received a cut that resulted in increased premiums for undocumented children of families living at 200–300 percent of the FPL.

Inclusion

The **North Dakota** state legislature appropriated **\$50,000** for inclusion support for child care providers.

Early Intervention

In **Maine**, Medicaid funds available to the early intervention system were reduced by **\$14M** for FY12.

Autism

In **Rhode Island**, commercial insurance coverage must now include the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders for children up to age 15—including behavioral therapies that have proven effective. Small group coverage and direct-pay health plans are exempt from the mandate.

Child Immunizations

In **Washington**, **SB 5005** requires parents to obtain information on the benefits and risks of immunization from a licensed health care provider before they can claim an exemption of immunization for their child enrolled in school or child care. The provider must either sign the certificate of exemption or a letter stating that the parent received the information.

Home Visiting

In **Alaska**, funding for the Parents as Teachers (PAT) program was level-funded at **\$300,000** for FY12.

Colorado was awarded **\$1M** for the first year of a five-year home visiting grant through the federal Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting program. Colorado is working with the Nurse Family Partnership, Parents as Teachers, and Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters to deliver evidenced-based home visiting programs.

The **Illinois** General Assembly cut funding for home visiting (Parents Too Soon/Healthy Families Illinois) by 1 percent (**\$170,000**).

Home Visiting *cont.*

In **Ohio**, Help Me Grow was cut by approximately \$3M to **\$33.6M**. This program provides visiting services to high risk pregnant women and their babies, and children from birth to 3 with developmental delays and disabilities.

Funding for home visiting in **New York** was fully restored after being eliminated in the state's 2010 executive budget.

Funding for the Parent Child Home Program in **Pennsylvania** was reduced, and the program will continue only in five high-risk or moderately high-risk counties where families do not have alternative access to nurse-family partnership programs or family centers.

Washington appropriated **\$1.9M** for home visiting over the biennium. The total amount of funding in the Home Visiting Services Account is approximately \$6.4M and includes a contribution from Thrive by Five (Washington's public-private partnership). For home visiting administration by the Department of Early Learning, \$200,000 of federal money will be used.

In **Wisconsin**, funding for home visiting was level-funded at **\$985,700**. State funding is being combined with federal home visiting funds to increase access to evidence-based home visiting for high-risk populations.

Environmental Health

SB 70 protects the health of young children in **Delaware** by prohibiting the chemical bisphenol-A (BPA) in certain children's products such as bottles, cups, and other containers used for storing food or beverages.

Ballot Initiatives

Washington defeated a ballot initiative (**I-1098**) in November 2010 that would have raised new revenue dedicated to education and health services by adding an income tax on the wealthiest 3 percent of households. Two ballot initiatives that may impact early education passed. **Initiative 1107** eliminated the sales tax on soda, candy, gum, and bottled water. **Initiative 1053** stated that any legislative action that raises taxes must be approved by a two-thirds vote in both houses or approved in a referendum to the people rather than by the simple majority required for most legislation.