

March 26, 2024

SPRING INTO ACTION FOR EARLY ED: updates on legislation and the FY25 MA budget



Agenda

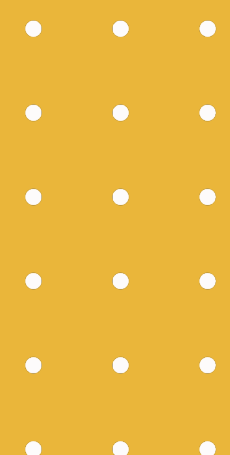
Welcome

Unpacking S.2697

FY2025 budget

Actions you can take now





UNPACKING WHAT'S IN S.2697

Where are we now

We are here

January 2023

January 2024

Potential next steps (April-December 2024)

Initial bills filed (H.489/S.301)

Bill reported out favorably by the education committee (redrafted as S.2619)

MA Senate debates and passes bill

MA House debates and passes bill

Legislature Conference committee/ both chambers vote on final bill

Governor signs bill

What Are the Headlines in This Bill?

Affordability	Accessibility	Quality
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• expands eligibility for CCFA to families up to 125% SMI• keeps CCFA free for families with incomes under the poverty line• limits parent fees to 7% of family income for families receiving CCFA• requires EEC to update family fee schedule every 5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• higher CCFA reimbursement rates for non-standard hour care• raises licensing capacity for family child care to 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• codifies early educators scholarship program• establishes loan forgiveness for all early educators• directs reimbursements and operations grants be based on cost of quality care• directs EEC to create a career ladder• codifies early education mental health consultation grants
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• makes operations grants permanent and sets out long term eligibility parameters		

How does this version differ from S.2619?

Affordability	Accessibility	Quality
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only guarantees eligibility for CCFA for families up to 85% SMI 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pilot program for employer supported childcare to expand slots 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operations grants eligibility: limits size of grants for large multi-site for-profit providers Directs EEC to consider financial assistance directly from providers when creating operations grant formula 		

FY2025 Massachusetts State Budget



How do these bill provisions relate to the budget?

Bill provision	Current program	Governor's FY25 budget proposal	FY25 proposal compared to FY24 budget	Associated line items
Operations Grants	Commonwealth Care for Children (C3)	\$475 million	same	1596-2410; 3000- 1045
Serve all children currently eligible for CCFA; limit family fees to 7% household income	Childcare Financial Assistance Program	\$773,775,368	\$20M increase	3000-3060; 3000- 4060
Increase eligibility for CCFA	CCFA expansion to families with incomes up to 85% SMI	\$75 million	New initiative in FY25	1596-2435
Provider reimbursements based on the true cost of quality care	Rate increases for CCFA reimbursement	\$65 million	NA	1596-2434
Plan for local partnerships to expand access to quality childcare and preschool	CPPI: PreK planning and implementation grants	\$37,673,127	\$23 million increase	1596-2412; 3000- 6025
Early childhood mental health supports	Early Childhood Mental Health Supports	\$5 million	same	3000-6075
Higher education scholarship for early education teachers	Higher Education Opportunities	\$10 million	same	3000-7066

HOW CAN YOU INFLUENCE POLICY?

Budget Process

January 2024

April 2024

May 2024

June 2024

July 2024

Summer 2024

Governor
Healey
proposes
FY2025
budget

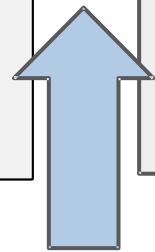
MA House
Takes up the
budget

MA Senate
Takes up the
budget

Conference
committee
budget
released

Governor
signs and/
or vetoes
budget
items

Legislature
may
override
vetoes



We are here

What Can I Do Right Now?

BUDGET

- Contact your State Representative-tell them which budget line items are most important to you and why

LEGISLATION

- Contact your State Senator to thank them for passing the Early Ed Act
- Contact your State Representative and ask them to take up the Early Ed Act this session-tell them which provisions are most important to you and why

Q+A SESSION