



CHILD CARE IS EDUCATION EQUITY

The Common Start Legislation (H.605/S.362)

While Massachusetts is a national leader in K-12 education (1), it ranks near the bottom in affordability and access when it comes to early education and care. The cost of child care in Massachusetts is [prohibitively expensive](#) and thousands of Massachusetts families are financially locked out of the high-quality early education programs they seek for their children. **Disparate access to early learning is at the root of education inequities and directly contributes to disparate rates of educational success.**

THE COMMON START LEGISLATION (H.605/S.362) ENSURES ALL CHILDREN HAVE ACCESS TO A HIGH-QUALITY EARLY EDUCATION THAT BEGINS AT BIRTH.

PASSAGE OF THE COMMON START BILL IS A CRITICAL STEP TOWARD CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP IN K-12 EDUCATION, REDUCING DISPARITIES IN POST-SECONDARY DEGREE ATTAINMENT, AND IMPROVING SOCIAL OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN.

See back for legislation details.

SOLVING THE CHILD CARE CRISIS IS KEY TO ADVANCING EDUCATION EQUITY

Children who attend early learning programs experience better educational outcomes as compared to peers who do not.

Research clearly shows that high-quality early education and care has a lasting positive impact on participants' education success:

- **The universal pre-kindergarten program in Boston** has been found to increase on-time college enrollment by 8 percentage points.(3)
- **For children enrolled in the Tulsa Public Schools pre-K program and the Community Action Project (CAP) of Tulsa County Head Start program**, participation was associated with “substantial improvements in pre-reading, pre-writing, and pre-math skills.”(4)
- **Children enrolled in Child-Parent Centers (CPC) in Chicago** in the early 1980s were observed over time and found to have higher rates of post-secondary degree attainment than their peers.(5)
- **A seminal study of low-income participants at the Perry Preschool in Michigan** has effectively shown that children experiencing poverty who attend a high-quality preschool program derive on-going benefits in the form of academic and economic success.(6)
- **The Abecedarian Project in North Carolina** showed a link between preschool participants and elevated reading and math skills “that persisted into adulthood.”(7)

1 See: [U.S. News and World Reports](#)

2 Green, B. L., Ayoub, C., Bartlett, J. D., Furrer, C., Chazan-Cohen, R., Buttitta, K., & Regalbutto, E. (2020). Pathways to prevention: Early head start outcomes in the first three years lead to long-term reductions in child maltreatment. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 118, 105403

3 https://www.nber.org/system/files/working_papers/w28756/w28756.pdf

4 Gormley Jr, W. T., Phillips, D., & Gayer, T. (2008). Preschool programs can boost school readiness. *Science*, 320(5884), 1723-1724.

5 www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/01/180130123717.htm

6 [Lifetime Effects: The High/Scope Perry Preschool Study Through Age 40](#)

7 [Early Childhood Education: Young Adult Outcomes From the Abecedarian Project](#)

Common Start Bill | What You Need to Know

An Act providing affordable and accessible high quality early education and care to promote child development and well-being and support the economy in the Commonwealth ([H.605/S.362](#))

- **Ensures that all families of all incomes are able to equitably access affordable, high-quality early education for their children.**
 - Families with household incomes below 50 percent of statewide median income (SMI) would be able to access early education and child care options for free; in Massachusetts this would impact families with income of less than approximately \$65,500. Above \$65,500, a sliding fee scale would apply and no family would pay more than 7 percent of their household income for care.
- **Invests in quality early learning programs by investing in early educators and committing to pay equity for the early education workforce, which is more than 90 percent women and 40 percent women of color.**
 - The Common Start legislation requires that wages and benefits for early educators be commensurate with annual pay scales for equivalent teacher positions in the public K-12 school system.
 - Under the Common Start legislation, educators would have financially supported access to scholarships, loan forgiveness, and other financial aid to obtain advanced credentials and pursue professional goals.
- **Supports early education and care providers by providing direct-to-program funding to promote program stabilization, capacity growth, and improved quality.**
 - The Common Start legislation provides foundational grant funding directly to providers to cover the full range of operational costs associated with high-quality early education and care.
 - Providers who receive foundational grant funding must demonstrate a commitment to equitable access for families and to quality improvement.
 - Early education and care programs serving lower-income families and children with special needs would be eligible to receive higher levels of direct-to-provider funding.



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