



Ohio Legislative Children's Caucus

*Learning, connecting, and problem-solving
together. Our children are counting on us.*

*The Importance of Quality Childcare and Early Childhood Education
to Ohio's Economy*



PRE4CLE

When our smallest students shine, Cleveland thrives.

PRE**4**CLE

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PRE4CLE

- Collective impact initiative to advance preschool access and kindergarten readiness
- Launched in 2014
- Part of *Cleveland's Plan for Transforming Schools*
- Led by city, county, school district, early learning, and community partners
- Approximately \$25 million/year in local funding toward preschool in Cleveland





*Goal: Every 3- and 4-year-old in
Cleveland has access to **high-**
quality preschool and starts
kindergarten ready to succeed*



When our smallest students shine, Cleveland thrives.

Cleveland's Preschool System in 2014

- **50%** of children kindergarten ready
- **23%** of Cleveland's children in high-quality preschool
- **20%** of high-quality slots were unfilled
- **Unequal distribution** in Cleveland neighborhoods



Cleveland's Preschool Goals



- Increase high-quality preschool seats



- Connect families to high-quality preschools



- Remove barriers to preschool access



- Community leadership and collaboration



For Community

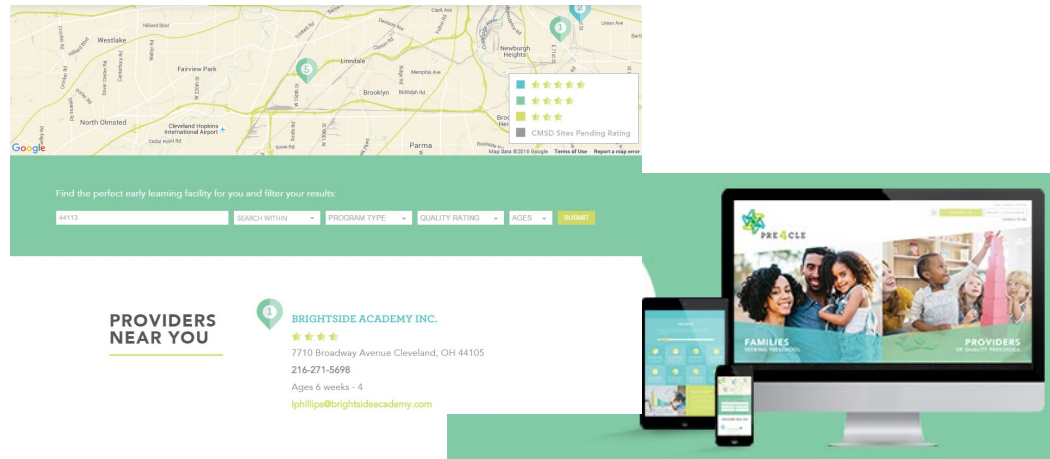
Strategic convening and leadership of partners

- Collaboration with early learning, K-12, government, philanthropic, nonprofit, and private sector partners
- Coordinate available resources
- Advocate for additional funding
- Set benchmarks
- Evaluation



For Families

- Research-based, multimedia awareness campaign
- Messaging that emphasizes quality
- Focus on filling high-quality seats
- PRE4CLE brand as a mark of quality
- Centralized data on high-quality preschools



When our smallest students shine, Cleveland thrives.



For Providers

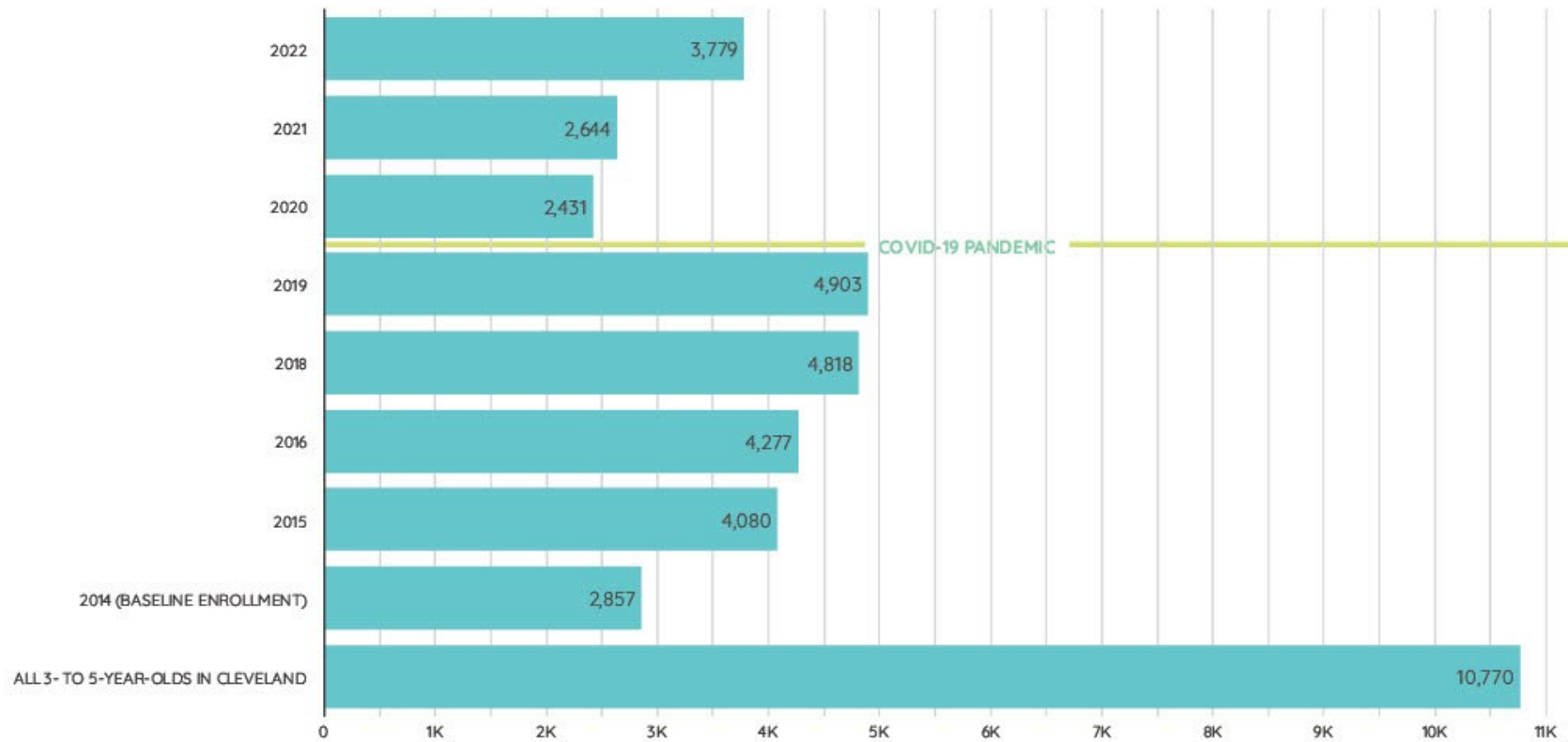
- Expand the capacity of high-quality programs
- Increase the quality rating of existing programs
- Connect providers to resources and information
- Professional development and networking
- Enrollment support



Utilizing ALL Early Learning Settings

- **Mixed delivery:** Cleveland Metropolitan School District, Head Start, child care centers, and child care home providers
- Focus on increasing access to **high-quality programs** in all settings, giving families options for preschool access
- CMSD investing \$15 million/year
- Cuyahoga County supporting a quality enhancement and scholarship model in high-quality preschool settings
- Change in HQ Providers: **71** in 2104 to **246** in 2023

High-Quality Preschool Enrollment Change 2013 to 2023



When our smallest students shine, Cleveland thrives.

PRE4CLE Providers

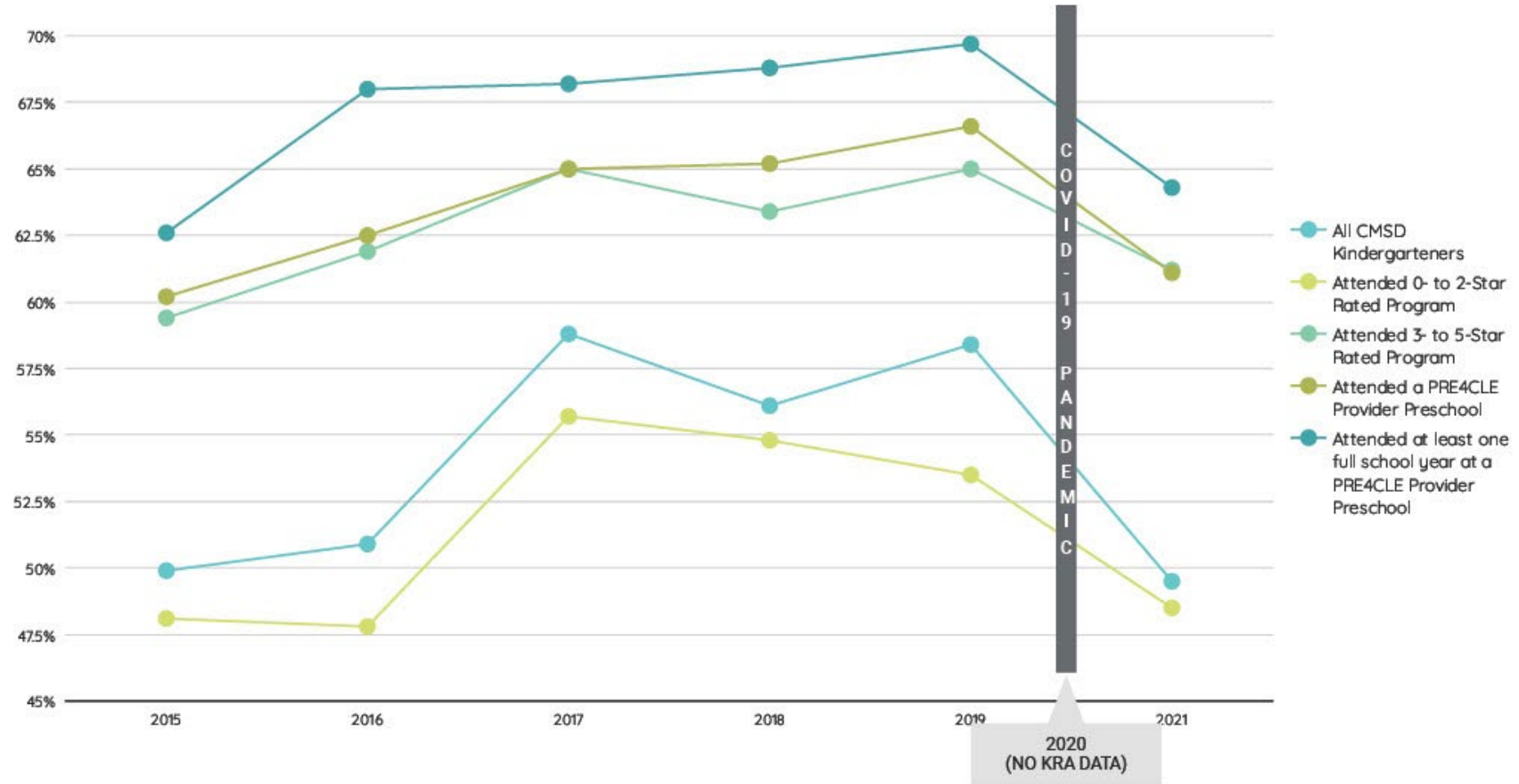
PRE4CLE partners with high-quality preschool providers including CMSD, Head Start, Child Care Centers, Private Preschools, and Family Child Care Homes.

Requirements:

- 3- to 5-Star Step Up To Quality Rating
- 1:10 Teacher-to-Student Ratio and Group Size of 20 or fewer children per classroom
- Additional Staff Education
- Ongoing Evaluation & Information Sharing

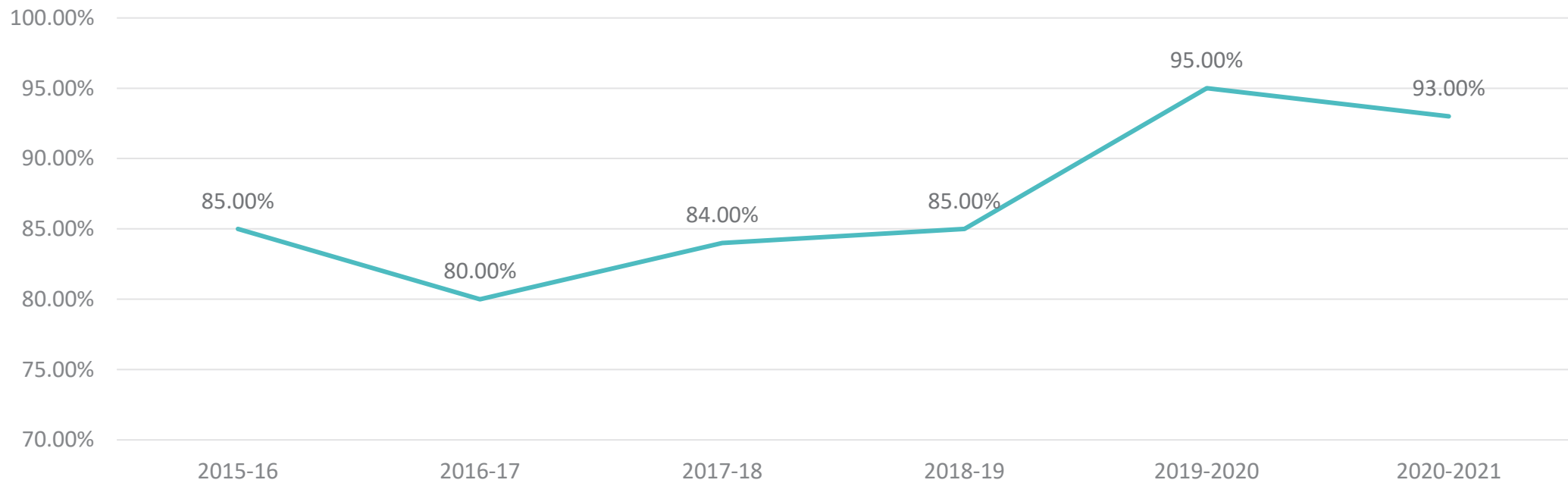


Percent of Cleveland Kindergarteners in Approaching & Demonstrating Bands of KRA



K-3 Literacy Improvement in CMSD

Percent of Third Graders Passing the Third Grade Reading Guarantee



When our smallest students shine, Cleveland thrives.

Scaling PRE4CLE's Outcomes Statewide

- Continue to support quality in early learning settings
- **Fund the true cost of providing quality early learning, including adequate compensation for teachers**
- Focus on the quality requirements that have proven outcomes for children



Scaling PRE4CLE's Outcomes Statewide

- **Expand eligibility so that more families have access to high-quality programs- at least 200% of the federal poverty level**
- Help families understand Step Up To Quality and why it matters for their child
- Offer funding for communication and family outreach to local communities



HB 33 Priority List

- Restore **\$150 million in ARPA funding for child care scholarships** for critical occupations to attract and retain quality teachers and staff in the child care workforce and support the expansion of infant and toddler capacity
- **Restore \$10 million for early childhood mental health consultation**
- **Support the proposed Department of Children and Youth** to allow for greater coordination of early childhood services
- **Maximize investment** in prenatal and early childhood services





Contact Us

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When our smallest students shine, Cleveland thrives.

Groundwork
OHIO



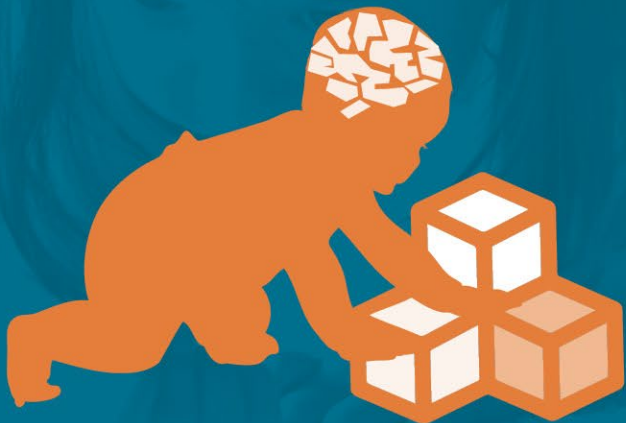
The Ohio Legislative Children's Caucus
May 15, 2023

Introductions

Groundwork Ohio is a committed, nonpartisan public-policy research and advocacy organization formed in 2004 that champions high-quality early learning and healthy development strategies from the prenatal period to age five, that lay a strong foundation for Ohio kids, families and communities.



*Investing in young
children strengthen
Ohio today &
tomorrow*



Lack of investment in PN-5....



... leaves Ohio's young children behind and jeopardizes our future workforce.

All of Ohio's young children need early learning opportunities to ensure they can reach their full potential and a lifetime of success.

“We want our children to grow, learn, and ultimately live and work right here in Ohio! Keeping our young people in Ohio has never been more important, as we create jobs faster than we can fill them.”

*~ Governor DeWine's
State of the State Address, 2023*

WITH ONLY **38%** of Ohio kindergartners entering the classroom ready to learn,

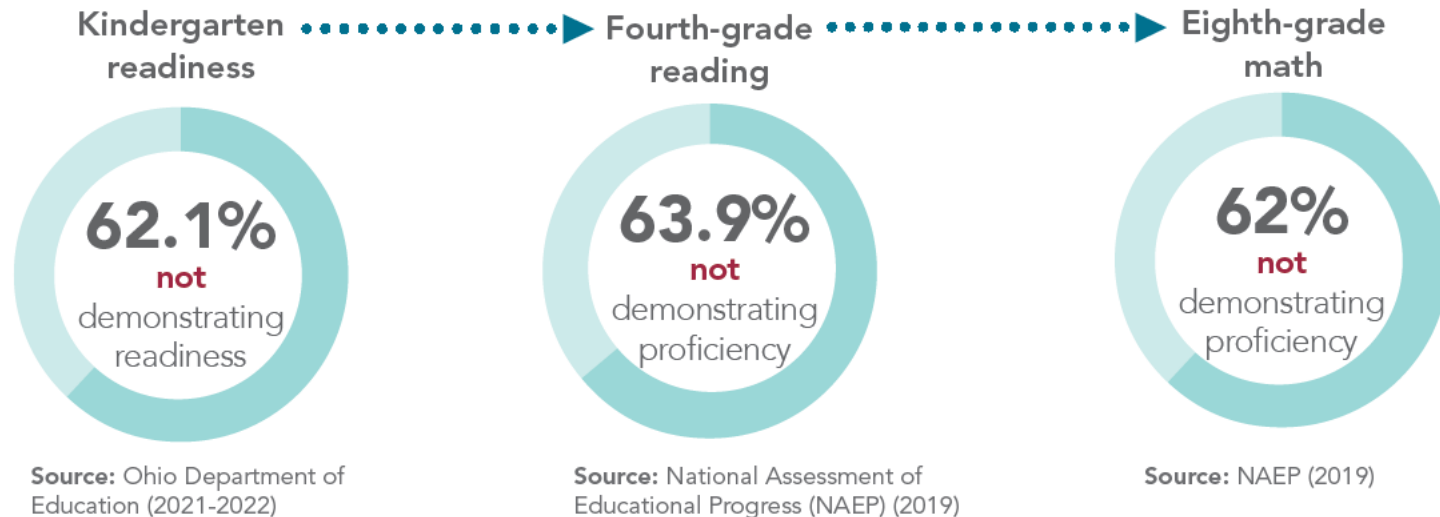
AND ONLY **38%** of Ohio students proficient in 8th grade math,

workforce readiness is in jeopardy.



Early investments can lay the foundation for good outcomes

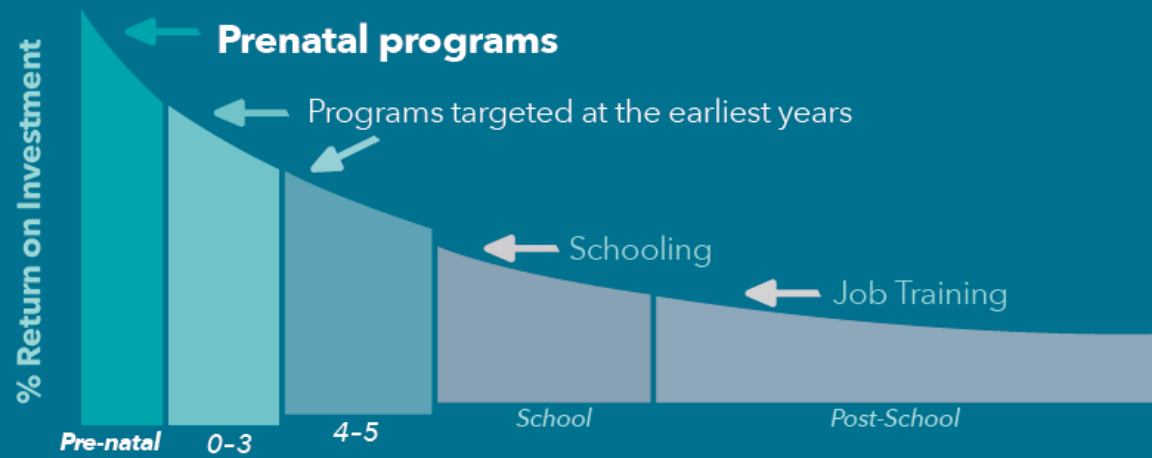
Ohio kids are **starting behind and staying behind**. There is a strong connection in research between a child's readiness to enter kindergarten and their math and reading scores throughout their academic career.⁵ When we prepare our children for kindergarten, we are preparing them for a future of academic success.



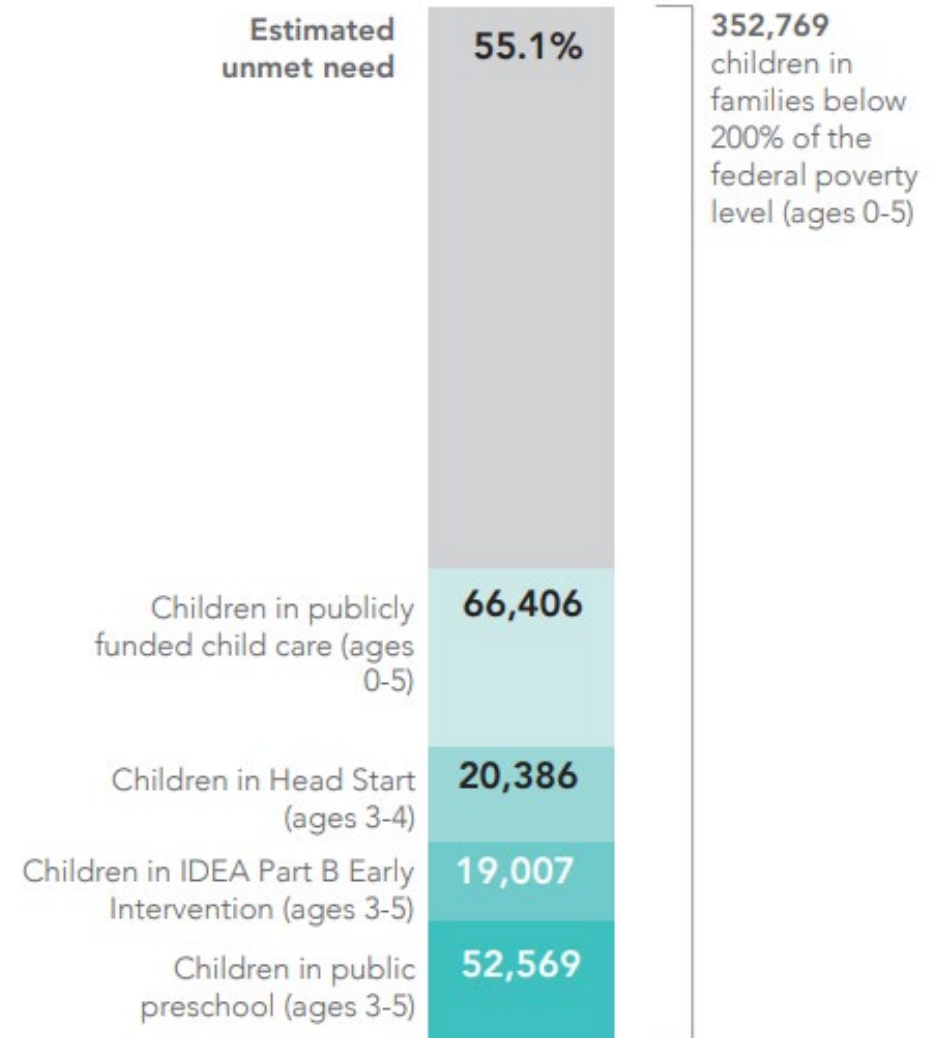
Where should Ohio invest?

Public investments in high-quality, prenatal to 5 interventions for Ohio children **deliver a 13% ROI per year.**

The highest return comes from investments in the earliest years because that work reduces later spending on special education, health care, and leverages dollars spent later.



Too many Ohio children from families with low incomes *did not have access to early learning opportunities in 2020-2022.*



Note: There is potential for overlap among children served because data for these programs come from multiple sources. This likely results in an underestimate of unmet need.

Sources: Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (2022); U.S. Office of Head Start data as reported by the Annie E. Casey Kids Count Data Center (2021); U.S. Department of Education (2020-2021); Ohio Department of Education (2021); American Community Survey (2019)

Babies carry the burden

Less than 1 in 5

Ohio babies from families with low incomes have access to any early learning program.



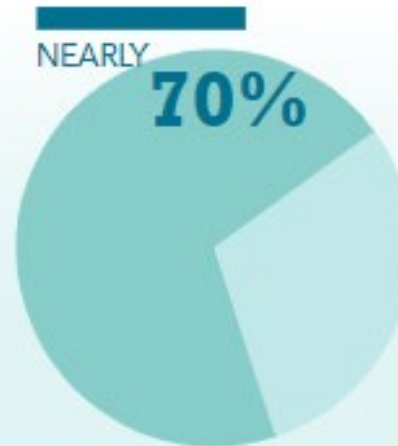
Lack of investment in PN-5....

➔ ... directly impacts a working mothers' ability to provide for her family.

This plays a foundational role in stabilizing business, rebuilding our economy, and helping all families thrive.

“This country needs to decide how we remove barriers for women to work, and one of them is access to child care.”

~ Suzanne Clark
U.S. Chamber of Commerce President & CEO



of non-working or part-time working moms with children under the age of five in Ohio said they would go **back to work** or work more hours if they had

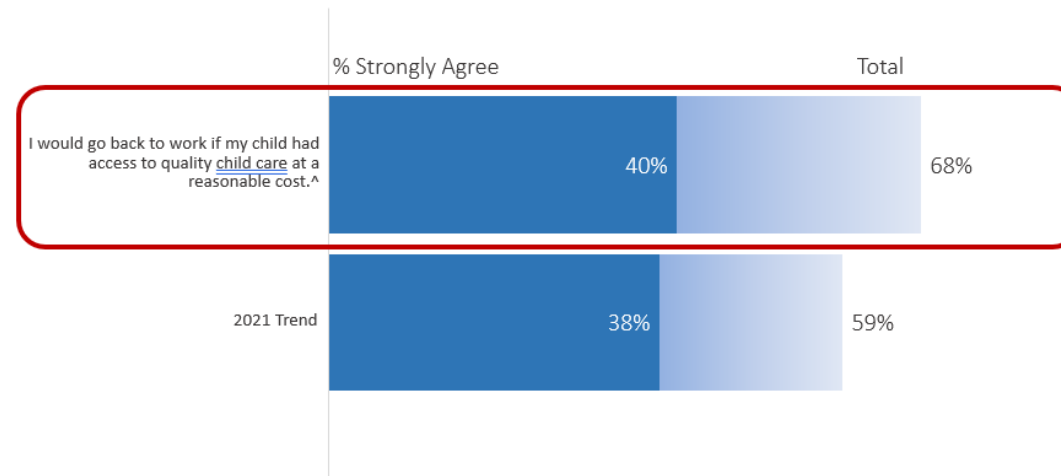
access to child care at a reasonable cost.



Child Care Poll: Key Finding

The lack of investment in Ohio's young children and child care directly impacts a working mothers' ability to provide for her family.

More than TWO-THIRDS of Ohio moms say they would go back to work if their child has access to high quality and affordable child care.



^N=119 Non-Working and Part-Time Moms with Kids Under 5



Now, please read the following statements and indicate whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with each statement.



Lack of investment in PN-5....

 ... restricts Ohio's workforce today and in the future.

A strong child care industry means parents can go back to work today knowing their child is receiving early learning experiences while building and strengthening the workforce of tomorrow.

“As an Ohio-based employer, our team members cannot and will not come to work if they do not have safe, quality child care for their children. Every one of our team members' successes at work greatly depends on the well-being of their children.”

*~ Jane Grote Abell
Chairwoman of the Board of Donato's Pizza*

Child care costs in Ohio:
On average, are more costly than rent. Our cost ratio is among the worst in the nation.

Child care availability:
60% of rural Ohioans
30% of all Ohioans
are living in a child care desert,
defined as an area with three times as many children as licensed child care slots.



Child Care Poll: Key Finding

The lack of investment in Ohio's young children and child care restricts Ohio's workforce today in and in the future.

A majority of parents with children under 5 (52%) say they or someone they know are on a wait list for child care.



and more than 4-in-10 of those parents on a wait list say they have been on it for MORE THAN

6 MONTHS



Lack of investment in PN-5....

➔ ... impacts Ohio's ability to attract new business investment across the state.

Right now, Ohio parents are forced to choose between taking on full-time, full-year work or stay un- or under-employed because they cannot afford the high cost of child care.

“Ohio businesses and workers are facing long-simmering challenges—and finding reliable, affordable, and safe child care is one of the most pressing. The business community can and will step forward to help, but we need additional federal investment as well. No Ohio worker should have to choose between family and work.”

~ Steve Stivers

President & CEO, Ohio Chamber of Commerce

OHIO'S ECONOMY
LOSES approx.

\$3.9 BILLION PER YEAR

due to child care issues.



Nationally, the annual cost is **\$122 BILLION** in lost earnings, productivity, and revenue.



Child Care Poll: Key Finding

The lack of investment in Ohio's young children and child care impacts Ohio's ability to attract new business investment across the state.



4-in-10 Ohio working parents have cut back on their work hours to care for their children because of child care barriers. This means....

800,000

**WORKING PARENTS IN OHIO
HAVE CUT BACK THEIR WORK
HOURS.**

Ohio Businesses & Employers Support Child Care Investments

Workforce Behind the Workforce

Prioritize Investments in Child Care in the State Budget SUPPORT THE WORKFORCE BEHIND THE WORKFORCE AN OPEN LETTER TO OHIO POLICYMAKERS



Dear Members of the Ohio General Assembly,

Each week, more than 82,000 child care professionals across the state care for and educate Ohio's youngest children while providing critical support for working parents. They are the backbone of our state's economy — the workforce behind the workforce. And this critical pillar of our economy is in crisis.

Child care providers serve a vital role in our communities and economies:

- Children need quality child care for healthy development and growth.
- Parents need quality child care so they can work to provide for their families.
- Employees need quality child care so they can have a viable workforce.
- BUT professionals are leaving the child care workforce, creating a significant gap.

We depend on high-quality, accessible child care in Ohio, and yet the child care workforce is shrinking and needs support they are underpaid, under-resourced, and struggling to meet the needs of children and families across our state. Our state's short- and long-term economic success is impossible without quality child care programs and the passionate educators and administrators who lead them. Yet every week we see classrooms closing and child care waitlists growing due to the lack of child care professionals.

And there is no mystery as to why our child care system is in crisis: child care pays among the lowest wages of all frontline workers with an average hourly wage of only \$10.00/hour, contributing to a 29.0% employee turnover rate. Child care professionals are leaving their classrooms for much higher-paying jobs in places like Target, Costco, Amazon, and even McDonald's. Families are left without the care they need and children miss out on the early, responsive learning experiences they need for healthy development and school readiness. More than 62% of Ohio kindergarten are not prepared for school and as the child care infrastructure continues to erode, fewer and fewer children will enter kindergarten ready to learn.

Reinvesting the overwhelming evidence around the need for more investment in our child care system, the Ohio House has two key provisions originally proposed by Governor DeWine. We ask the state legislature to restore these cuts to the governor's proposal:

- **Child Care Capacity:** An investment of \$100 million for child care scholarships for the direct care workforce, including early childhood professionals, and to support the opening of additional child care classrooms.
 - **Early Childhood Mental Health:** An increased investment of \$20 million over the biennium to expand Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation that was reduced by \$10 million in the Ohio House.
- At the same time, we celebrate the targeted investments that build upon the Governor's proposal and ask the state legislature to maintain the following investments and policies that were included in HB 433, as passed by the Ohio House:
- **Targeted Infant & Toddler Child Care Capacity Building in Child Care Deserts:** A new investment of \$20 million in state funds to address child care deserts, especially in Appalachia and communities with high infant mortality rates, to provide safe and developmentally appropriate child care for infants and toddlers.
 - **Child Care Eligibility:** An expansion of the state's publicly funded child care program from 142% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) to 160%, which would result in more than 13,000 children and families gaining access to care.
 - **Preschool:** An additional \$61 million per year in Early Childhood Education grants, estimated to expand preschool to an additional 13,293-3 and 5-year-olds.

Children cannot tell policymakers what they need to think, but we can. As child care professionals, we see the positive impacts of high-quality, accessible child care on our youngest citizens. We also see the harsh reality as the child care cuts continue to worsen. Providers can no longer hold this system together without meaningful investments that supports the child care infrastructure. Rebuilding and reinforcing the workforce behind the workforce is essential to Ohio's economic vitality and future strength.

- Supporting:
- | | | |
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| <p>Rebecca Jones
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Executive Director, Summit County
Family Child Care Program</p> <p>Dr. Tracy Wilson
Executive Director of Children & Families,
Step Services</p> <p>Donna Fogarty
CEO,
Summit County Community
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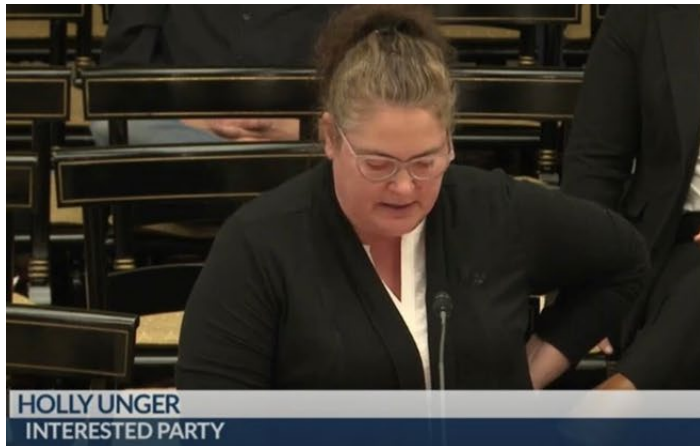
View the list of nearly 1,000 child care professionals supporting this letter: GroundworkOhio.org/workforce

Filed by: Groundwork Ohio, groundworkohio.org

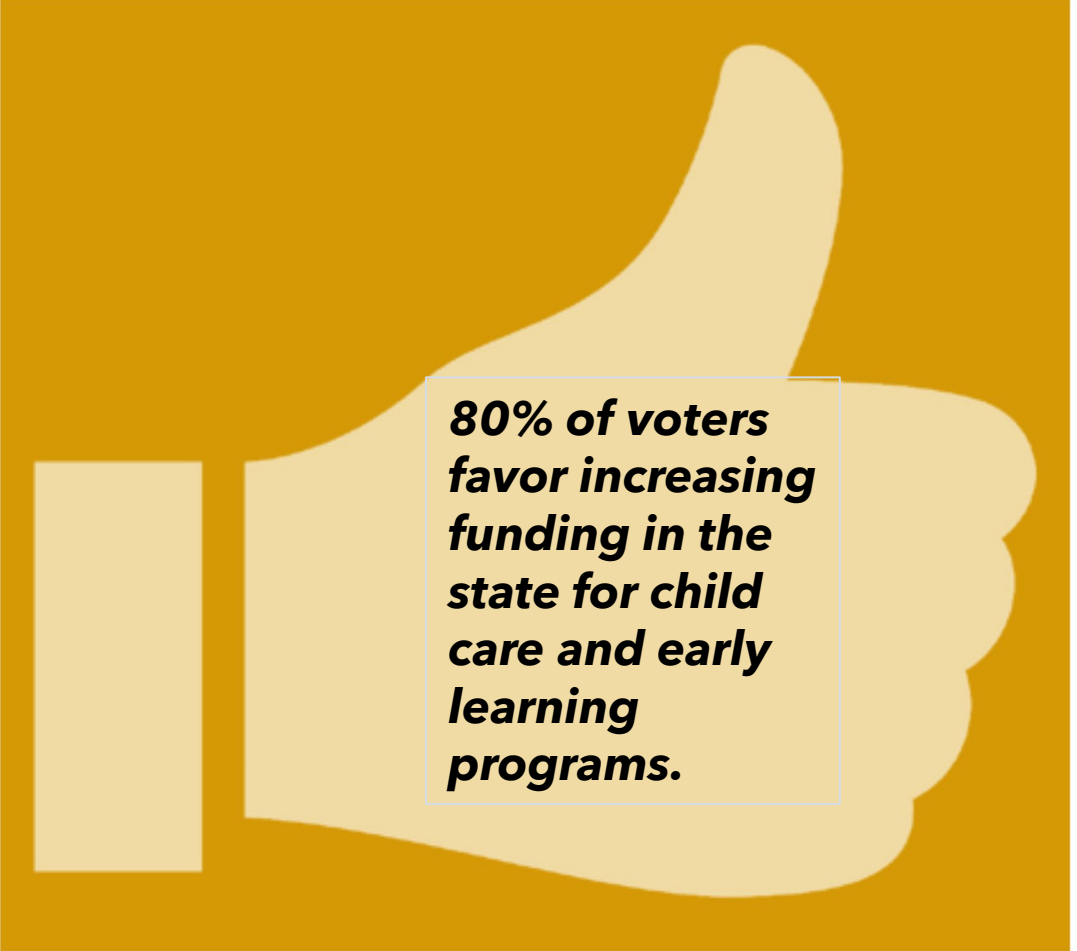


Parental Workforce

87% of parents favor increasing funding in the state for child care and early learning programs.



Ohio Voters



80% of voters favor increasing funding in the state for child care and early learning programs.

Sub. HB 33 Policy Priorities

How to Invest in Young Children in the FY24-25 State Budget

- 1 Restore the Governor's proposed \$150 million to establish child care scholarships for critical occupations and other direct service professionals including child care professionals. (SC0329).
- 2 Restore the \$10 million cut to support early childhood mental health credentialed counselors and consultation services. (SC0331).
- 3 Restore the nearly \$20 million cut for the state evidence-based home visiting program, Help Me Grow. (SC0330).
- 4 Maintain the \$30 million grant to provide safe and developmentally appropriate child care for infants and toddlers.
- 5 Maintain the increased funding for the state's preschool Early Childhood Education grants.
- 6 Maintain the increase in eligibility for publicly funded child care from 142% to 160% of the FPL.



Groundwork
OHIO



**Thank
You.**

GroundworkOhio.org



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Questions & Answers

For legislators and legislative staff, please feel free to unmute yourselves to ask questions or share feedback.

For all other participants, please use the chat or Q&A feature, and we will do our best to answer in the time allotted.



*Thank you for joining
today's webinar!*

For more information on upcoming
Ohio Legislative Children's Caucus
webinars and meetings, please
contact:

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