

ECHO & Family Center Early Childhood Council Questionnaire – Colorado General Election, Jeff Peckman – Unity Party of Colorado Candidate for Governor

What We're Asking

Please respond to the following questions:

1. What long-term funding solution would you support to end Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP) freezes and waitlists—and prevent them from returning?

Ample and sustained funding for CCCAP is easy to achieve, but it requires a new mindset and strategy. Too much of the state budget is spent on expensive Band Aid approaches to persistent problems. Freezes, wait lists and funding cuts to CCCAP and other vital programs are the result.

For example, air pollution damages the mental and physical health of people at all ages, especially children. However, I would end costly tax-funded financial incentives for EVs and EV charging infrastructure. Instead, I would get Colorado PERA to sell off its \$300 million in Tesla stock. Then PERA could invest in Colorado businesses that can quickly and affordably reduce air pollution. One is a Colorado-based technology called coherent fuel plasma. It can achieve Colorado vehicle emission reduction goals within two years without more EVs. That would save about \$2-3 billion annually in fuel, healthcare, and acid rain damage costs.

Moreover, farm and forest biomass are potential wildfire fuels. They can be converted profitably into high value carbon materials. One of those is the new “wonder material” graphene. It’s predicted to have a \$11 trillion global economic impact over the next 25 years. Together, these breakthrough solutions would launch new economic engines worth billions of dollars annually. Those financial benefits would cascade through every sector of society. They would make more funding available for pre-school to college, healthcare, and other essential programs.

2. What changes would you support to make Universal Preschool Colorado (UPK) sustainable for providers and full-day preschool affordable for families?

Improving the economy and quality of life for Coloradans will enable more children to enjoy UPK. There will be less uncertainty in due to freezes, waitlists, and funding cuts. My answers to other questions highlight new strategies for improving the economy. It can be as easy as employing emerging technologies and other cost-effective solutions that actually pay for themselves. Regardless of the outcome of Colorado’s 2026 general election, I will be available to offer input for improving pre-school access and sustainability. Much of what I’ve already suggested can be achieved without relying on state government.

3. What investments would you support to expand child care options in rural Colorado and improve early childhood educator pay and retention?

First, I would learn what investments would help. I would support investing in adult education and training to help rural communities create new value-added products and services. That would create new economic engines to increase income and tax revenue. As a result, more child care options will unfold and expand, along with better educator pay and retention. Rural Colorado has untapped resources that can provide solutions for healthcare, high tech, small businesses, manufacturing, and education.

One other economic engine would be based on a coherent electricity technology. It reduces harmful effects of “noise” in electromagnetic fields that affect everyone. This “noise” reduces learning ability and health. It also reduces worker productivity. This same coherent EMF technology reduces temperature in electric motors and computers (data centers). That will increase energy efficiency and cooling more affordably.

Graphene and coherent electrical current are new sciences. Children should learn about them at a young age. China teaches AI to children as early as kindergarten. However, in the U.S., Colorado is in 19th place for research and commercialization of graphene. Even animal manure can be turned into hydrogen, and graphene that is more valuable than gold. The liberal politicians would bury that “gold” underground so they can profit from “carbon trading”. I would invest that “gold” to improve quality of life throughout Colorado and provide more pre-school funding. I would also oppose Governor Polis’ recent tax-funded financial incentives for defense contractors that make bombs to blow up children in foreign countries.

4. As responsibility for helping families and providers access UPK has shifted from the local level to a more centralized approach, how would you protect trusted local support? What measures would you use to determine whether the new system is improving services?

I can give only a general idea of how my administration would help families and providers access UPK. I don’t have any children and don’t know all of the specific issues related to this question. Most important is that I would review any system to determine if it makes the best and highest use of resources to ensure the greatest benefit for the children and families.

I would pay close attention to whether the roles of stakeholders and type of systems are serving the intended goals of UPK. Whatever system exists, or could exist, would be measured against fiscal responsibility, transparency, and accountability. Every stakeholder must have a voice and be heard and respected. ECHO could set an even higher standard for excellence and success for pre-school programs and funding. I encourage ECHO to share my recommendations with other counties, since Fremont County is the only county to invite my input on solutions for pre-school programs.

My campaign theme is to “Raise the Zone for a Coherent Colorado”. As I’ve mentioned in my campaign website, and book “RAISE the ZONE”, coherence can be an operating principle in government. At present, state government is like a “Rube Goldberg Machine” that is a complex matrix of unnecessary parts and ineffective programs that produce minimal benefits for the people. A coherent government is more like the “Butterfly Effect” that initiates small actions that produce big effects.

5. Is there anything else you would like voters to know about your priorities for early childhood systems, programs, or funding?

Funding for education needs to be viewed in the context of the overall economy. That would improve greatly from my administration. During the June primary election, Genesis AI ranked candidate solutions to air pollution, with 10 as the most effective and affordable. Michael Bennet got an 8. Phil Weiser got a 6. I got a 10! For overall solutions to Colorado’s problems, AI gave Bennet an 8, Phil a 7, and me a 9! That full analysis is posted at <https://jeffpeckman.com/ai-rankings>. The same technologies described above can dramatically decrease pollution so that young children can stay healthy enough, and live long enough, to enjoy pre-school. Worldwide, eight million people die each year from air pollution. Among those are 700,000 children under age five. Colorado has the technology to greatly reduce that number. So, the technologies which can provide more funding for pre-school can also be exported to prevent tragic deaths globally.

Generally, my solutions are not only more effective and affordable than those offered by other candidates, but they actually save money. Most of them can also create new economic engines that would raise prosperity for all Coloradans, while increasing tax revenues to better fund all areas of government responsibility. The two major parties have ignored the kinds of proven, cost-effective solutions I’m sharing because they don’t fit into their political agenda. My administration would be entirely solution-oriented. It would be the best equipped for creating the “rising tide that lifts all boats.”