Prioritizing Early Childhood and Educational Opportunities for Children in Ohio’s Budget

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| **Expand Access to High Quality Child Care** | • Protect all current levels of state and federal investments in PFCC and increase state investment in the program to support the increased cost of operations during COVID-19, recover lost capacity due to COVID-19 and ensure the system has sustainable funding mechanisms.  
• Expand initial eligibility for publicly funded child care from 130% Federal Poverty Level (FPL) to 200% FPL to help parents afford child care and ensure more at risk children have access to high-quality care.  
• Support all providers serving children in publicly funded child care in achieving 3-stars by 2025 in Ohio’s Step Up to Quality rating and improvement system. This includes supporting a highly skilled and fairly compensated early childhood workforce.  
• Evaluate programs from an equity lens and utilize data to make targeted investments that eliminate barriers to access and the impacts of COVID-19 based on race, rural geography and age of the child. |
| Contacts: **Groundwork Ohio** and **Policy Matters Ohio** | |
| **K-12 School Funding Opportunity** | • Fulfill the promises in H.B. 305/S.B.376 to move the state towards an additional $1.99B in state aid for public education over the next 6 years.  
• Fund privatization options with direct state funding rather than through deductions from school districts.  
• Create a Permanent School Fund for long-term funding stability.  
• Invest real authority in an independent school funding commission that will ensure evidence-based future changes to the funding model base.  
• Invest in best remote learning practices to handle any COVID-19 issues.  
• Fund studies to improve funding for students in poverty, who have special needs, whose second language is English and other funding categories to ensure all students receive the world-class educations they deserve. |
| Contact: **Ohio Education Association** | |
| **EdChoice School Vouchers** | • Pass HB 305, or SB 376, to create a fair school funding plan.  
• End deductions for all voucher programs by creating a separate line-item for vouchers.  
• Continue funding wraparound services to help students address the non-academic needs of dealing with pandemic and other adverse childhood trauma experiences.  
• Focus on making public schools that educate 9 of 10 Ohio children, the first schools of choice. |
| Contact: **Ohio Federation of Teachers (OFT)** | |