



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

Issues	Opportunities in Ohio's 2022-2023 State Budget
<p><a href="#">Expand Access to High Quality Child Care</a></p> <p>Contacts: <a href="#">Groundwork Ohio</a> and <a href="#">Policy Matters Ohio</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#">K-12 School Funding Opportunity</a></p> <p>Contact: <a href="#">Ohio Education Association</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Fund privatization options with direct state funding rather than through deductions from school districts.</li> <li>• Create a Permanent School Fund for long-term funding stability.</li> <li>• Invest real authority in an independent school funding commission that will ensure evidence-based future changes to the funding model base.</li> <li>• Invest in best remote learning practices to handle any COVID-19 issues.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#">EdChoice School Vouchers</a></p> <p>Contact: <a href="#">Ohio Federation of Teachers (OFT)</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pass HB 305, or SB 376, to create a fair school funding plan.</li> <li>• End deductions for all voucher programs by creating a separate line-item for vouchers.</li> <li>• Continue funding wraparound services to help students address the non-academic needs of dealing with pandemic and other adverse childhood trauma experiences.</li> <li>• Focus on making public schools that educate 9 of 10 Ohio children, the first schools of choice.</li> </ul>