



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

Issues	Opportunities in Ohio’s 2022-2023 State Budget
<p>Expand Access to High Quality Child Care</p> <p>Contacts: Groundwork Ohio and Policy Matters Ohio</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
<p>K-12 School Funding Opportunity</p> <p>Contact: Ohio Education Association</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
<p>EdChoice School Vouchers</p> <p>Contact: Ohio Federation of Teachers (OFT)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.