



OUR LONG-TERM VISION FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Significant Need for Additional State Investments

Delaware has made progress, including: doubling the number of children served in high quality pre-K and making 3,000 more children eligible for Purchase of Care (POC). **And there are still significant needs today in Delaware:**

- **Too few families are served in public programs:** Only 19% of children under age 5 are served in publicly funded early care and education
- **Families cannot access state assistance:** Delaware families must earn below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (below \$60,000 yearly for a family of 4) to be eligible for public programming. Most states serve families up to 250% of FPL and beyond
- **Lack of child care is holding back our economy:** Parents are leaving the workforce and employers are facing staffing shortages
- **Child care providers continue to operate with limited openings** due to low reimbursement rates and staffing shortages

Policymakers: Invest, Expand, and Streamline Today

- **Expand access to quality:** Make transformational investments that provides access for any family that chooses to participate in a universal pre-k program, ages 0-5
 - **Pay for the cost of quality early care and education**, removing family contributions or limiting to no more than 7% of income
 - **Provide funding for all children in mixed delivery settings**, leveraging the strengths of current mixed delivery system to meet families' needs, including type of care, hours of coverage, and support for special needs
- **Streamline funding and programs:** Streamline funding and consolidate governance to make access easier for families and programs
 - **Move Purchase of Care (POC) and state funded early care and education (ECAP) into a single agency** and align eligibility criteria and program standards

Tell lawmakers today: bit.ly/ECEFY26ASK

Contact your legislator: legis.delaware.gov/FindMyLegislator

Delaware's Child Care Progress: bit.ly/DelECEProgress

