



**NORTH CAROLINA
EARLY EDUCATION COALITION**

Legislative Preview and Electoral Advocacy Training

August 25, 2020



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The NC Early Education Coalition is a proud partner in the national ZERO TO THREE Think Babies™ campaign and in the Pritzker Children's Initiative's National Collaborative for Infants and Toddlers.

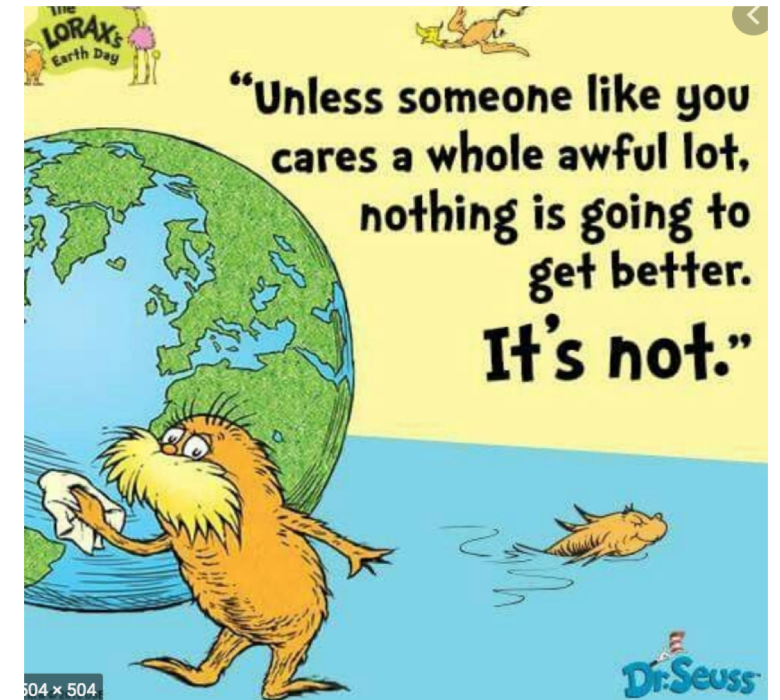
Message of Hope from Elliott



“There’s a light
at the end of
the tunnel!”

Goals for Today

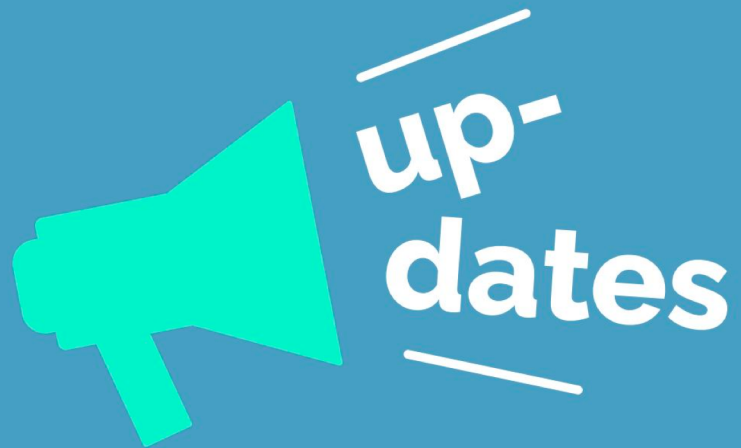
- Highlight latest child care news
- Preview upcoming Legislative Session
- Electoral Advocacy Training



Let's check in!



Poll: What's your personal weather forecast?



Early Childhood Education Breaking News



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Snapshot of Child Care in NC

- 90% of all child care programs have reopened
 - Centers – 60%
 - Family child care homes – 91%
- Enrollment is down 57%. Only 43% of children – 106,000 – attending now vs 245,000 in Feb.
- Vacancy rates remain high
- COVID-19 Cluster cases reported in child care
- In NAEYC survey, programs operating at 80% of capacity or less, 51% expect to close within six months, if they don't receive additional public support

DCDEE COVID-19 Child Care Relief

- DCDEE projects it will spend all federal CARES relief – see sidebar
- New policy effective August 21st changes in September
 - Subsidy reimbursement based on true attendance only
 - Parent copay fees are again parent responsibility
- ***No other special child care relief available at this time***

CARES ACT CHILD CARE FUNDS TOTAL = \$186 MILLION

- \$34.7 Emergency Child Care Subsidy
- \$38.2M for teacher and staff bonuses
- \$80M for operational grants
- \$6.2M for PPE and cleaning supplies
- \$5 M to Smart Start for parent support & TA
- \$10M to cover parent copayments in June & July (projected)
- \$12M for additional PPE and cleaning supplies for rest of the year (projected)

DHHS/DCDEE COVID19 School-Age Child Care

School-age child care issues and Public Schools Opening

Issue #1 - Who Can Provide School-age Child Care?

- 30,000 existing slots at licensed child care facilities
- Some Community-Based Organizations (CBO) programs want to expand their capacity to serve school-age

Policy Solution:

- Schools can contract with CBO and assume liability

Issue #2 – Subsidy financial assistance for school-age child care

- 13,700 children on the subsidy wait list, 3312 are school-age children, ages 5-12
- Subsidy eligibility for school-age children capped at 133% FPL, compared to 200%FPL for children ages 0-5

At the Federal Level

- Congress considering a next COVID Relief bill
- Elevating Child Care as National Priority
 - Likely range from \$15 - \$50 billion in next COVID Package

[Take Action Now!](#)

House	Senate
HEROES bill – passed in May House Democrats \$7B for child care	HEALS bill – passed in July Senate Republicans \$15B for child = \$5B CCDF, \$10B Back to Work grant program (Sen. Ernst bill – “Back to Work Child Care Grants Act of 2020)
Child Care is Essential Act - \$50B for child care	

NC Legislative Session Preview

- Starts September 2nd
- Could be short short session
- Focus is likely on COVID emergency funds, using federal funds first
- Depends on whether Congress takes action on next COVID relief bill
- Goal is to preserve state funds as long as possible
- Heading into 2021 with fiscal crisis – projected \$5 B shortfall
- Will there be a 2020 state budget?



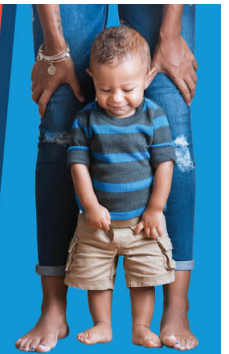
Handout: NC Early Education Coalition Child Care Legislative Ask

**We need to take
more than baby steps.**

Strolling Thunder:
A Think Babies™ NC Advocacy Day!
Thursday, September 3rd



**STROLLING
THUNDER**
North Carolina



Dos and Don't's Electoral Advocacy for Nonprofits



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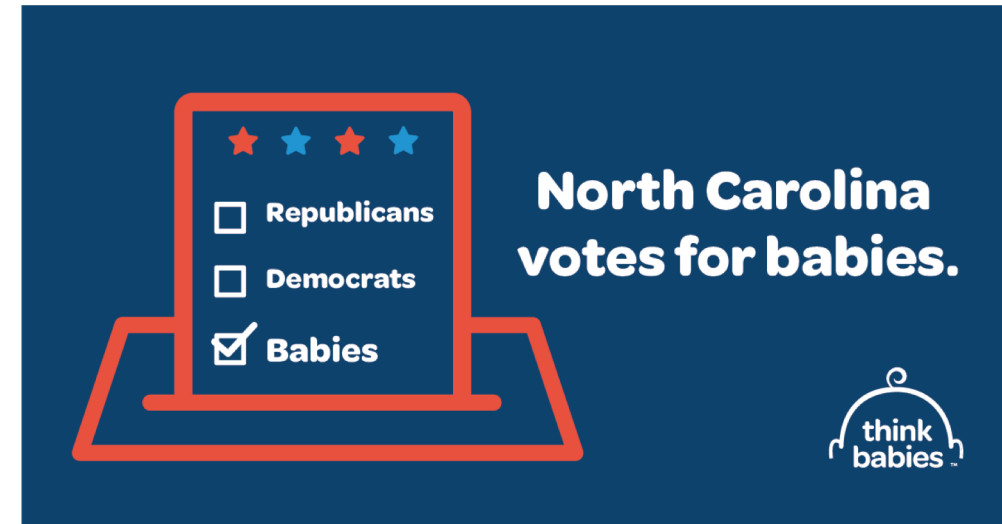
Core Principles

Nonprofits -

- Section 501(c)(3) charities have a right to educate the public.
- Nonprofits cannot show any “bias or preference” for or against a candidate. Treat all candidates the same!
- Aim for balance: okay to keep pushing our agenda, without indicating (even obliquely) support or opposition to any candidate.

You Personally -

- Your free time is yours and you are protected in doing what you want on your own time, in your own *personal* communications.



Allowable 501(c)(3) Activity

Civic Engagement

- Voter registration
- Get-out-the-vote

Public Education

- Public statements
- Candidate briefings
- Candidate forums, debates and questionnaires
- Must be available equally to all candidates for a given office.
- Materials can be shared virtually or in-person briefing – or both.



Do Make Public Statements/Don't Make Political Statements

- **Factors indicating a communication is political:**
 - It identifies a candidate.
 - It reflects a view on a candidate's actions.
 - The refers to voting or timing coincides with an election.
 - It identifies a candidate's position on a public policy issue, and that issue has been raised as distinguishing the candidate from other candidates for that office.
 - It is not part of an ongoing series of substantially similar advocacy communications by the organization on the same issue; and
 - The timing is not related to non-electoral event (e.g., scheduled legislative vote).

Make Your Vote Count for Young Children!

Electoral Advocacy Toolkit

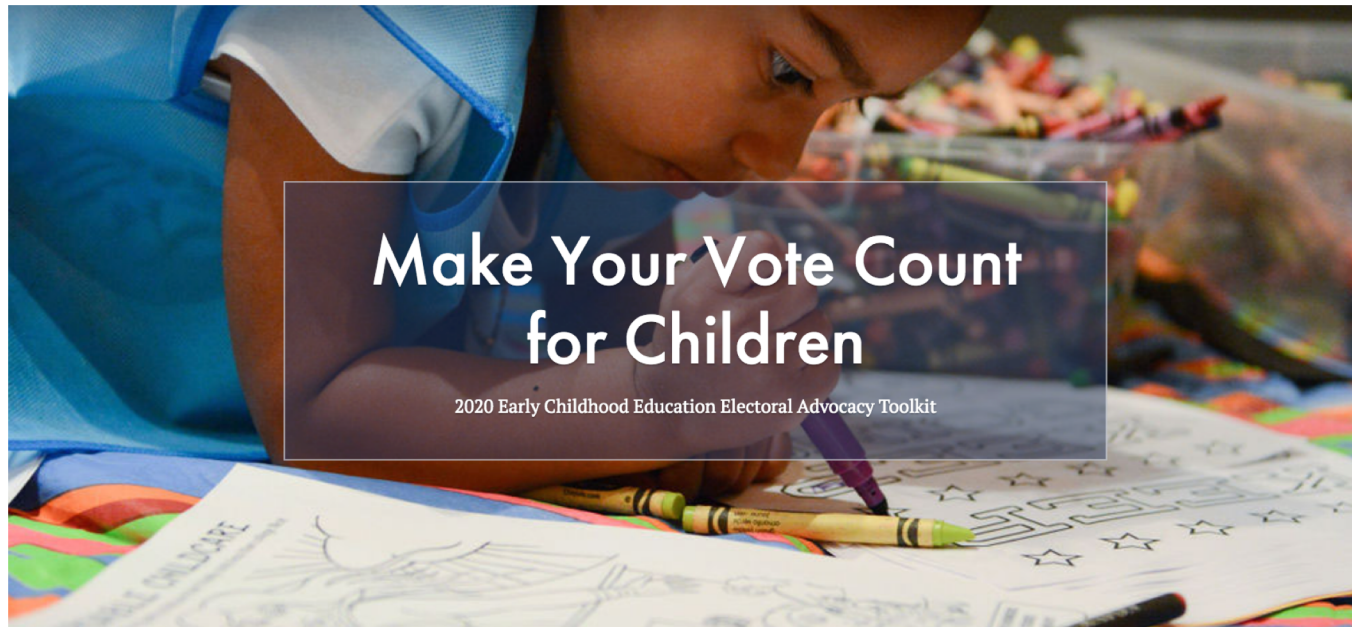


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Electoral Advocacy Toolkit

**Your vote matters.
Children are counting on you to be their champion!**



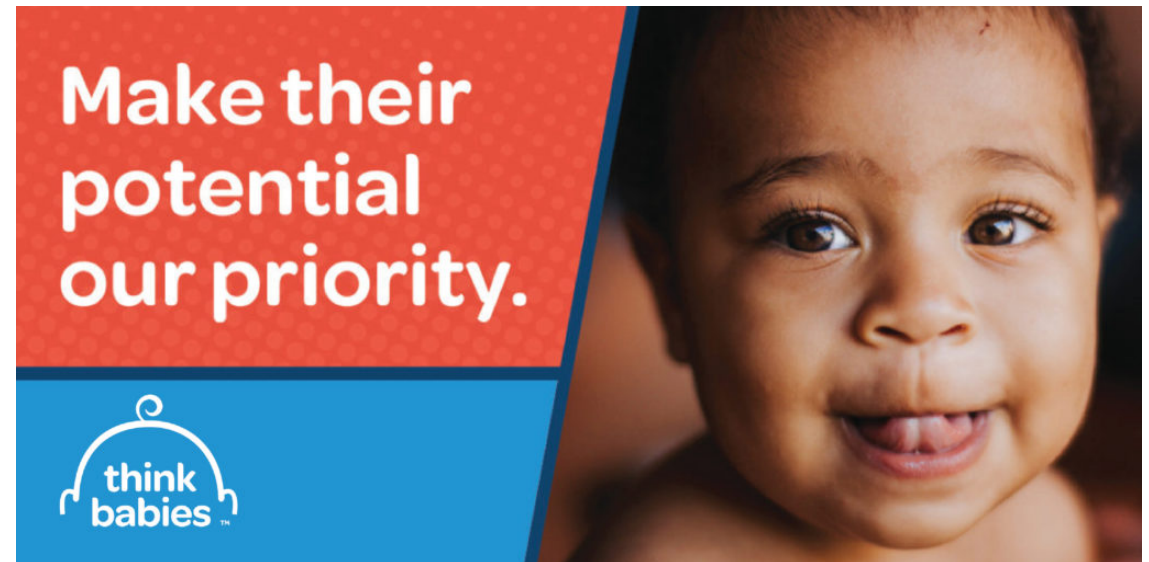
Electoral Advocacy Toolkit: www.nearlyeducationcoalition.org/2020-electoral-advocacy-toolkit/

What's At Stake in this Election

This election provides an opportunity for policymakers to make bold progress on key issues that all children need to thrive – healthy beginnings, supported families, and early learning.

The stakes are high:

- Healthy development
- Supported families
- Educational success
- Economic prosperity
- Every child's potential



Who's On the Ballot

Will these candidates speak up for babies and families?

- President of the United States
- 1 seat in the U.S. Senate
- 13 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives
- Governor
- Lieutenant Governor
- 50 seats in the NC Senate
- 120 seats in the NC House of Representatives
- Supreme Court Justices and other Judges
- Dozens of Mayors, City Council seats, County Commissioners, School Board Members, and other local offices

Who's running in your district?

- Handout: list of all candidates by district and county
- https://ballotpedia.org/Sample_Ballot_Lookup



Key Election Dates & Information

Election Day is Tuesday, November 3, 2020!

Get Ready to Vote:

- Check your voter registration
- Register to vote
- Request a mail-in/absentee ballot
- Look up your nearest early voting site
- Look up your polling location for election day



Key Dates and Information:

- You do NOT need a photo ID to vote
- Deadline to register to vote: October 9th
- Early voting period: October 15th - 31st
- Same-day voter registration is available at One-Stop Early Voting Sites
- Deadline to request a mail-in/absentee ballot: October 27th
- Deadline to return a completed mail-in/absentee ballot: November 3rd

Questions for Candidates

Where can you ask candidates questions?

- Campaign events - town halls, candidate forums, debates
- On social media
- Emails or phone calls to their campaign



Sample questions:

- How would you address ensuring all babies and their families have access to physical and mental health coverage and care?
- Most working families can't afford child care, which can cost more public college tuition. What would you do to make sure low-income working families are able to access child care assistance?
- What actions will you take to ensure that all young children have equitable opportunities to thrive and reach their potential in school and in life, regardless of race, income, or zip code?
- How can you help ensure that all children have access to a sound basic education, beginning in early childhood, as required by the recent court action in Leandro v. State of North Carolina and recommended in the West Ed Report?

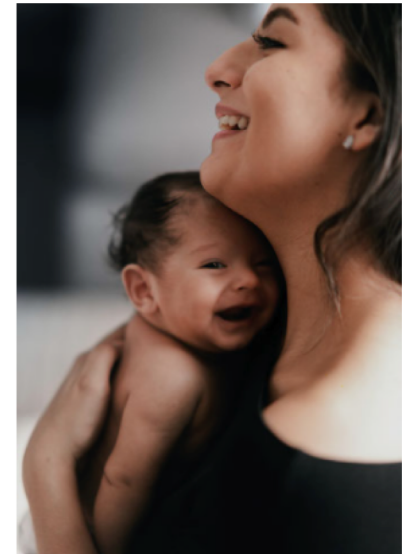
More sample questions in the toolkit!

Advocacy Tools

Tell 2020 candidates to make young children and families their top priority

Templates and resources available in the toolkit:

- [Sample email to candidates](#)
- [Sample questions for candidates](#)
- [Sample social media posts](#)
- [Sample letter to the editor](#)
- [Key facts about NC's young children and families](#)



Voting is the most important thing you can do!

Tell us why you're voting for babies!



Strolling Thunder

Join us for a Think Babies™ NC Advocacy Day on Thursday, September 3rd!

- Virtual Rally from 10:00-11:00am
- Day of Action: email and call your legislators
- #ThinkBabiesNC Twitter storm at 2:00pm

Learn more and register:

www.ncearlyeducationcoalition.org/events/

**We need
to take
more than
baby steps.**

**September 3, 2020
10:00 - 11:00 am**



**STROLLING
THUNDER**
North Carolina

Learn more and register:
[*NCEarlyEducationCoalition.org/events*](http://NCEarlyEducationCoalition.org/events)

Tell Policymakers It's Time to Think Babies

Sign the Think Babies™ NC Petition:

- <http://ow.ly/nFcb50B3WL1>
- We'll deliver a special Strolling Thunder storybook to all NC legislators with your signatures and comments

Share Your #ThinkBabiesNC Story:

- <http://ow.ly/qIPE50B6M86>
- Send us a picture or video to tell us why you think babies
- Submit your picture or video by September 1st for a chance to win a \$50 VISA gift card!

**Let's have their backs.
Sign our petition.**



Questions?



Thank you!

www.NCEarlyEducationCoalition.org

For more information:

Michele Rivest

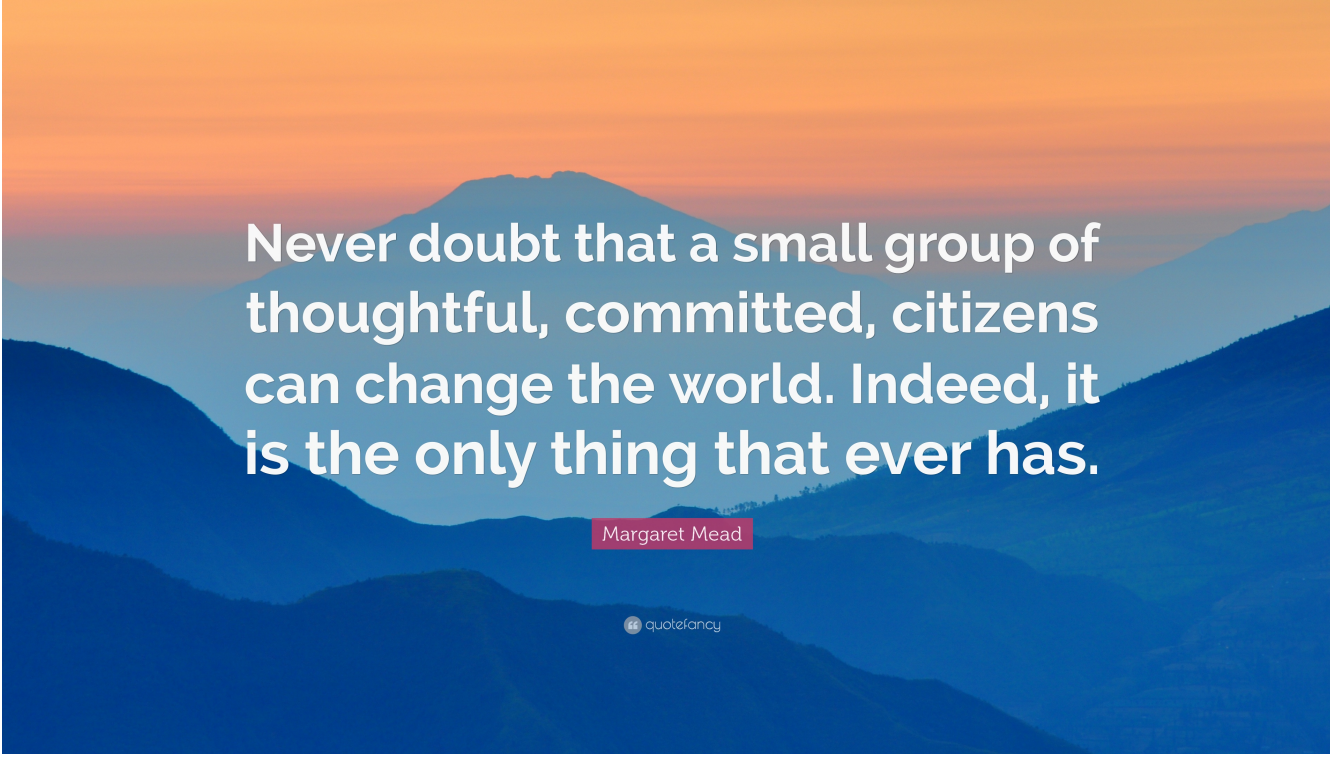
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Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

Margaret Mead

 quote fancy