

The Road To High-Quality Early Education

Child care is essential for young children's healthy development, working families, and North Carolina's economic recovery and future prosperity.

Child care is not funded like it's essential. The financing system is broken: parents can't afford to pay more, providers can't afford to operate quality programs, and teachers can't afford to work for unlivable wages.

COVID-19 has devastated the fragile foundation of this system and worsened existing challenges, especially for children of color, families with low income, underpaid teachers, and under-resourced communities.

Child care is a public good.

It's the foundation for a stronger North Carolina.

It's infrastructure for families. It's the infrastructure that keeps our economy going. It's the workforce behind the workforce.

Early education builds the foundation for children's healthy development and future success in school and in life.

Building a more effective and equitable early education system will require new policies and public investment.

High-quality early education is the path to a better future for everyone.

Invest in Children

Babies and young children need healthy beginnings, supported families, and quality early education.

Invest in Programs

Child care programs need stable funding, better market rates, operating grants, and sustainable business supports.

Invest in Families

Families need assistance to afford child care, paid family leave, home visiting, and other economic supports.

Invest in Teachers

Teachers need higher wages, health care and other benefits, and professional development.

Together we can reach our destination of high-quality early childhood education for all young children – regardless of race, family income, or zip code.

Visit nearlyeducationcoalition.org to learn how you can be part of advancing the quality, accessibility, and affordability of early education in North Carolina.