

# CHILD CARE

## Governors' 2015 State of the State Addresses: Mentions of Early Care and Education

April 2015

A total of **27 governors** (14 Democrats and 13 Republicans) referenced early care and education in their 2015 State of the State addresses. These governors recognize the important role of child care and early education in giving children a strong start in school and in life, helping parents work so they can support their families, and ensuring their states' economic prosperity. Many of these governors offered specific proposals to increase the accessibility and quality of early care and education. For example, Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton proposed \$372 million in new funding for early care and education, including for prekindergarten programs, child care scholarships, Head Start, home visits to support families with very young children, and child care tax credits. Missouri Governor Jay Nixon proposed to provide an additional \$11 million for prekindergarten. Indiana Governor Mike Pence indicated that the state planned to provide \$10 million for the state's pilot prekindergarten program. Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant proposed to double funding for the state's prekindergarten program, to a total of \$6 million. Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf proposed to increase the number of children in prekindergarten by 75 percent. Alabama Governor Robert Bentley discussed the goal of making prekindergarten classes available to every child in his state, and, similarly, Connecticut Governor Dannel Malloy declared the goal of making prekindergarten universally available in his state.

The excerpts from the speeches related to early care and education, along with links to the full texts, are provided below. (Two states do not have State of the State addresses this year.)

### **Alabama: Governor Robert Bentley (R)** **March 3, 2015**

<http://governor.alabama.gov/newsroom/2015/03/2015-state-state-address-4/>

Our people need the opportunity for good jobs, and our young children must have the opportunity to get a strong foundation for learning. I want every child in the state of Alabama to have the opportunity to get a quality First Class Pre-K education.

Our First Class Pre-K program is one of the best state-run programs in the country. Last fall in Alabama more than 7,000 four-year-olds across the state were given the opportunity to go to preschool for free. For the eighth year in a row, Alabama's First Class Voluntary Pre-K program is one of only five in the country that met all the quality benchmarks set out by the National Institute for Early Education Research.

We must continue to expand our pre-k program because it makes a real difference in the lives and the education of Alabama's children. Last year, children who attended our First Class Pre-K program were less likely to fail a grade in school, and across all grades, they consistently scored higher in reading and in math than those who did not attend.

Yet only 12 percent of four-year-olds in Alabama have access to First Class Voluntary Pre-K. **That is why once again we must continue to increase funding as we continue to expand this opportunity. I want every parent to know, that at the end of my term, there will be a First Class Pre-K classroom available for their child.**

### Alaska: Governor Bill Walker (I)

January 21, 2015

<http://gov.alaska.gov/Walker/press-room/full-press-release.html?pr=7059>

(No reference)

### Arizona: Governor Doug Ducey (R)

January 12, 2015

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/governor/news/state-state-address>

(No reference)

### Arkansas: Governor Asa Hutchinson (R)

*No State of the State Address*

### California: Governor Jerry Brown (D)

January 5, 2015

<http://gov.ca.gov/news.php?id=18828>

(No reference)

### Colorado: Governor John Hickenlooper (D)

January 15, 2015

<http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite?c=Page&childpagename=GovHickenlooper%2FCBONLayout&cid=1251660636570&pagename=CBONW rapper>

(No reference)

### Connecticut: Governor Dannel Malloy (D)

January 7, 2015

<http://www.governor.ct.gov/malloy/cwp/view.asp?A=11&Q=559062>

Connecticut has always been a birthplace of innovation. And over the past four years, we've continued to lead—and lead nationally—on some of the biggest issues of our time...We've built better schools, raised test scores, made college more affordable, and **put Connecticut on a path toward universal prekindergarten.**

### Delaware: Governor Jack Markell (D)

January 22, 2015

[http://governor.delaware.gov/docs/2015\\_SOTS\\_1-22-15-PRESS\\_FINAL.pdf](http://governor.delaware.gov/docs/2015_SOTS_1-22-15-PRESS_FINAL.pdf)

All of our children deserve a world-class education from day one...Ninety percent of children's brain development occurs before they even enter kindergarten. So thanks to your support, **we have enrolled more than 3,000 additional high-needs children in the best early childhood centers in the past two years. And we've given grants to 89 top early learning programs to offer the highest-quality infant care to more of our neediest kids.** We know that care is expensive and hard-to-find, yet key to our children's success.

...Wilmington is now working with the U.S. Department of Justice—the FBI, the ATF, and the Drug Enforcement Administration—to bring additional resources to combat violent crime. **We’ve provided hundreds of additional city youth with access to safe and constructive activities after school.**

...Let’s also remember that increasing access to treatment [of substance use disorders] goes to the heart of one of our most fundamental responsibilities. We invest in treatment for the same reason we have invested so heavily in early childhood programs for low-income families, after school and summer activities, and, now more than ever, the education provided in our poorest neighborhoods. It’s why we focus on what happens to ex-offenders when they leave our custody. Senator Marshall’s low-wage taskforce placed a similarly important focus on those living in the most difficult circumstances. All of these efforts mean a new chance for Delawareans to turn their lives around, but also a chance for us to gain from their contributions. A lack of opportunity for anyone in our state is a missed opportunity for all of us.

### Florida: Governor Rick Scott (R)

March 3, 2015

<http://www.flgov.com/2015/03/03/governor-rick-scotts-state-of-the-state-address-2/>

(No reference)

### Georgia: Governor Nathan Deal (R)

January 14, 2015

<http://gov.georgia.gov/press-releases/2015-01-14/state-state-great-challenges-require-great-cooperation>

Over 19,000 students dropped out between grades nine and 12 over the past school year. That is far too many. Neither Georgia nor these young people can afford the disparaging effects that typically result when someone leaves high school prematurely. This is why over the next few years we intend to take a comprehensive look at how we can make K-12 education more accessible and more effective. A child that does not graduate from high school is that much less prepared for the workforce, that much less prepared for college and that much more prepared for a life behind bars.

I am establishing an Education Reform Commission to study a number of questions regarding our education system, such as **increasing access to Georgia’s world-class early learning programs**, recruiting and retaining high-quality teachers in our classrooms, and expanding school options for Georgia’s families. This group, which will be composed of legislators, educators and a variety of other stakeholders, will recommend potential improvements to me by August 1 of this year. I fully anticipate this process to be as successful as the one involving our justice reforms after which it was modeled.

### Hawaii: Governor David Ige (D)

January 26, 2015

<http://governor.hawaii.gov/featured/governor-david-ige-delivers-state-of-the-state/>

(No reference)

### Idaho: Governor C. L. “Butch” Otter (R)

January 12, 2015

[http://gov.idaho.gov/mediacenter/speeches/sp\\_2015/SOS%20FY%202016.pdf](http://gov.idaho.gov/mediacenter/speeches/sp_2015/SOS%20FY%202016.pdf)

(No reference)

**Illinois: Governor Bruce Rauner (R)****February 4, 2015**[https://www2.illinois.gov/gov/Documents/SOS\\_Transcript\\_02\\_04\\_15.pdf](https://www2.illinois.gov/gov/Documents/SOS_Transcript_02_04_15.pdf)

Let's talk about the most important thing we do together as a community—education. I promised to increase education funding and will keep that promise.

We will increase K-12 education support. This increased support will particularly help our most disadvantaged school districts. **And our budget will increase funding for early childhood education so that more at-risk children can enter kindergarten ready to succeed.** From cradle to career, our children's education needs to be our top priority.

**Indiana: Governor Mike Pence (R)****January 13, 2015**<http://www.in.gov/gov/files/2015StateoftheState.pdf>

And while we have maintained a strong balance sheet, we've also invested in education and building the roads of the future. We've increased support for schools, approved the first-ever state funding for quality pre-k, and invested more than \$800 million in new funding for roads. The result? Graduation rates are up. Test scores are up, the doors of our pre-k program are already open to disadvantaged kids...

**...building on the historic first step we took last session, we will invest \$10 million a year to fund scholarships for our new pre-k pilot, because every Hoosier child deserves to start school ready to learn.**

**Iowa: Governor Terry Branstad (R)****January 13, 2015**<https://governor.iowa.gov/2015/01/gov-branstad-delivers-2015-condition-of-the-state-%E2%80%9Ctogether-we-can%E2%80%9D>

(No reference)

**Kansas: Governor Sam Brownback (R)****January 15, 2015**<https://governor.ks.gov/media-room/media-releases/2015/01/16/state-of-the-state-2015>

(No reference)

**Kentucky: Governor Steve Beshear (D)****January 7, 2015**[http://governor.ky.gov/Speeches/20150107\\_SOTC.pdf](http://governor.ky.gov/Speeches/20150107_SOTC.pdf)

Step one in building a stronger workforce has focused on our youngest children. Too many Kentucky children were getting a poor start in life. Too many children were entering school with preventable health problems, undeveloped minds and little engagement in life around them. And as we all know, kids who start out behind rarely catch up.

So we worked to create an environment where every child—regardless of whether he or she is born in the inner city, in a mountain hollow, on a farm or in the suburbs—every child is given the opportunity to succeed.

To do this, we dramatically improved access to health care for children in low-income families. We targeted dental problems. We increased enrollment in preschool programs. And we developed a screener to gauge whether early education programs were preparing our kids to hit the ground running on day one of kindergarten.

In this session, we need to continue our momentum by adding accountability and transparency to all of our early child care facilities. **I will again seek legislation to implement the goals of what's called the All-STARS plan—Accelerating Learning Statewide Through an Advanced Rating System. All-STARS addresses safety, continuing education for staff members, nutrition and age-appropriate curriculum.** Look, we have health ratings for restaurants. Aren't our children just as important? All parents deserve to know the quality of the place where they drop off their kids.

...This past June, Attorney General Jack Conway and I announced a legal settlement that brought stability and certainty to Kentucky's receipt of tobacco settlement funds. The agreement gives Kentucky \$57.2 million more in these payments over the next three years than budgeted, money that has been earmarked for agriculture diversification, early childhood development and health-care improvement, including cancer research. It was a huge achievement.

...A stronger Kentucky is why I worked with Representatives Mike Cherry and Jeff Hoover and Senator Damon Thayer to put our public pension system on the path to stability, adopting a long-term reform strategy for the Kentucky Retirement Systems that will work—if we don't neglect it or negate it. And it's why I worked with many of you to preserve unemployment insurance benefits, **expand preschool services to reach 5,000 more four-year-olds**...authorize agency bonds for the first time ever to expand our 16 KCTCS campuses...and invest in infrastructure projects like an advanced manufacturing training center in Georgetown, the Breathitt Veterinary Center in Hopkinsville and the Louisville bridges.

### Louisiana: Governor Bobby Jindal (R)

April 13, 2015

<http://gov.louisiana.gov/index.cfm?md=newsroom&tmp=detail&articleID=4923>

(No reference)

### Maine: Governor Paul LePage (R)

February 3, 2015

[http://www.maine.gov/tools/whatsnew/index.php?topic=Gov\\_Speeches&id=636878&v=article2011](http://www.maine.gov/tools/whatsnew/index.php?topic=Gov_Speeches&id=636878&v=article2011)

(No reference)

### Maryland: Governor Larry Hogan (R)

February 4, 2015

<http://governor.maryland.gov/2015/02/04/state-of-the-state-address/>

(No reference)

### Massachusetts: Governor Charlie Baker (R)

*No State of the State Address*

### Michigan: Governor Rick Snyder (R)

January 20, 2015

[http://www.michigan.gov/documents/snyder/2015\\_Michigan\\_SOTS\\_Transcript\\_479562\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/snyder/2015_Michigan_SOTS_Transcript_479562_7.pdf)

Let me talk about education. We should be absolutely proud, we have been a leader in the nation with early childhood and preschool education. **The last two years we made major budget commitments; \$65 million a year for a total of \$130 million in an on-going basis. We created over 29,000 new opportunities for people in need, young people in need to get preschoolled.** That is outstanding and we should be proud.

...And now I am going to transition right into education, because that River of Opportunity applies to education as well. Two huge areas I want to mention, particularly on education. First of all, we need to put a stronger—a much stronger—focus on what I described as pre-natal through third grade (P-3). One of the important metrics in someone's life on the River of Opportunity is the ability to be proficient in reading by third grade. How have we done? We were at 63 percent in 2010 and we are at 70 percent today. About a 10 percent improvement. We can't be proud of that folks. Seventy-percent doesn't cut it. We have already done some great things that I know will improve that number, such as our investment in early childhood, as those kids age. That can make a huge difference in that number, but we cannot stop there. I am going to ask for additional resources when I present the budget to say let's invest more in that area. I am also asking the legislators to work with me to create a commission outside of government, with people from all sectors to say how do we look at best practices. It's a model that's worked well in places such as Tennessee. So let's work on third-grade reading.

...We have worked above politics to do great things, as I mentioned the Grand Bargain, Healthy Michigan. We're leading the nation in creating manufacturing jobs. **We're leading the nation in early childhood education.** We're going to lead the nation in career tech education and the skilled trades. We're going to lead the nation in treating our citizens as real people, not programs. With your partnership, we're going to continue moving Michigan to the top to say we can be the best, to do the right thing by our citizens and it's something we should be proud of.

## Minnesota: Governor Mark Dayton (D)

April 9, 2015

<http://mn.gov/governor/newsroom/pressreleasedetail.jsp?id=102-160529>

As I said before, we have a unique opportunity right now, to dedicate our budget surplus to areas of continuing need or to areas that were previously overlooked. By illustration, during my 2010 campaign, I proposed that our state fund all-day kindergarten for all Minnesota children. Some questioned school districts' interest in providing it; others questioned the need for it; and still others questioned its cost. Finally, in 2013, it passed the legislature, and I signed it into law. At the time, only 54 percent of Minnesota's five-year-olds were enrolled in a free, all-day kindergarten program. For many of the rest, their parents were paying as much as \$4,200 a year to defray the cost. **This year, thanks to state funding provided by you, 99.6 percent of Minnesota's five-year-olds are in all-day kindergarten classes, being offered in all but one of our state's 954 public elementary school sites.**

I thank the school boards, superintendents, principals, teachers, and parents, who responded so enthusiastically and overwhelmingly to this opportunity. And I thank every legislator here tonight, who voted two years ago to make it possible. I expect the reason you seek your job, as do I, is to make lasting improvements in the lives of the people you serve. Well, this time we did, in the lives of young Minnesotans, now and for years to come.

...I have also proposed a major new early childhood initiative to fund prekindergarten classes for all of our state's four-year-olds, as well as bring significant increases in funding for child care scholarships, elimination of the Head Start waiting list, ECFE [Early Childhood Family Education], home visits, and expanded tax credits for parents for the cost of child care. **In total, I am proposing \$372 million in additional funding to care for and educate our children between the ages of zero to four years old.** I strongly urge the groups now fighting over how that additional funding should be allocated to work cooperatively with the legislature to find the best solution given the funds that will finally be available. In my view, it's not either/or. It's both.

...All sorts of social measures—from better health, to higher productivity, to lower crime rates—are strongly correlated with levels of educational attainment. The amount of legislative funding for improved education, all the way from early childhood through postsecondary, will measure your commitments to our state's future.

## Mississippi: Governor Phil Bryant (R)

January 21, 2015

<http://www.governorbryant.com/gov-phil-bryant-delivers-2015-state-of-the-state-address/>

Most every state's success is largely judged by its education system. Admittedly, our public education system has been a challenge for as long as any of us can remember. In fact, there is no recorded history of Mississippi's public education system that shows statewide success. However, I believe the transformational changes brought about by the Mississippi Legislature in the past three years will finally begin to show progress. A brief review can begin with the Literacy Program that will end social promotion at the critical point of entering the fourth grade. Charter schools for the first time in Mississippi history will offer hope to those children trapped in failing school districts. Funding early childhood learning programs began in our first Legislative session together, and **this year I will support doubling the funding for the Pre-K Collaborative Program with a total appropriation of \$6 million.** Because of our success, Education Week ranks Mississippi number nine in the nation in preschool enrollments.

## Missouri: Governor Jay Nixon (D)

January 21, 2015

<https://governor.mo.gov/news/archive/gov-nixon-delivers-2015-state-state-address>

In the past six years, we made government smarter by embracing technology. From hunting permits to child care provider information, Missourians can now access hundreds of government services from their smart phones—saving time, money and aggravation.

...Where our public schools thrive, our communities thrive. And if we're completely honest about where our schools stand—we've still got work to do. Because better isn't good enough. Our kids deserve the best. **My budget will invest an additional \$11 million in preschool, so that more children, regardless of their circumstances, start kindergarten ready to learn.**

## Montana: Governor Steve Bullock (D)

January 28, 2015

[http://governor.mt.gov/Portals/16/docs/012815StateoftheState\\_Final.pdf](http://governor.mt.gov/Portals/16/docs/012815StateoftheState_Final.pdf)

Our oldest, Caroline, is in seventh grade now. Caroline was in the first class of full-day kindergarten here in Helena, approved by this body in 2007. Her teacher was a long-time educator named Karl Wolf; he's a bit of a legend around town. Years before Caroline, Karl taught four of my wife's brothers and sisters. It was Mr. Wolf's last year of teaching, but that's not why he entered that first year of full-day kindergarten so excited. I'll never forget a conversation I had with him: He said, "Steve, there is so much more I can do with these kids now." Though, on a more somber note, he added, "But so many of these kids enter this kindergarten classroom and already barely have a chance."

How can it be that a child is already set to become a success or a statistic by the time he or she is five years old? How can we as a society not be doing everything we can to make sure these kids have every opportunity we can afford to succeed? Sure, we can point fingers at the parents or family or community, but will assigning blame change the trajectory of even one child in Montana?

You can help. We know that children in high-quality early childhood programs are more likely to read at grade level and more likely to earn a high school diploma. They are less likely to repeat a grade or require specialized education; less likely to become teenage parents, require public assistance, abuse drugs or end up in jail. The results are in, researchers and scientists across the country agree. This works. Not only that, but for every dollar spent on early childhood, communities get at least a \$7 return on investment. That's why some of the biggest backers of preschool programs are business leaders who see the significant economic benefit.

While an investment in our earliest learners makes solid economic sense, this isn't about the \$7 return. This is about children and this is about families. This is about Cliff and Gayle, the grandparents I met last year who are—unexpectedly—now raising their four-year-old granddaughter, Riley. Cliff and Gayle sold the farm and retired to Great Falls in 2009, but their retirement and Social Security checks aren't quite enough to pay for a preschool program for Riley. Being a kiddo who has had a tough first few years, they knew she was going to need some special attention and a high-quality program with teachers who could help her grow and be prepared for kindergarten.

But it just isn't something they could afford. Then they heard about the Great Falls Public Preschool Program. District leaders there recognized the value of preschool and patched together the funding to serve 100 four-year-olds who would not otherwise have the opportunity. When I met Cliff and Gayle, they told me how Riley was thriving and how grateful they were to be able to give her the opportunity to succeed when she enters kindergarten next year.

Programs like this and Head Start provide that opportunity for some kids, but long waiting lists ensure that just as many qualifying families are denied as are served. And too many families and children fall in the gap between qualifying for an income-based program and not being able to afford one of our many high-quality private preschool programs. At no fault of their own, these children are predisposed to miss opportunities in life because we're not giving them a chance.

That's why I'm asking you to join me in giving our earliest learners an Early Edge. **What I'm proposing is pretty simple—we'll offer state block grants to all communities to create or expand high-quality prekindergarten programs.** Locally elected school districts can build a new program, partner with existing providers, or do nothing at all. And, importantly, participation in these programs will be voluntary—school boards can decide if it's the right option for their community and parents can decide if it's the right option for their kids.

My friends on the Republican side of the aisle pride themselves on spending taxpayer dollars wisely. That's exactly what I'm insisting upon. Qualified teachers making sure our students are prepared to succeed, a reasonable ratio of students to teachers, and engagement with the families. Almost every other state has recognized that preschool works. That's why it's unfortunate that it seems to have become a partisan football here in Montana. In the last school year, states with Republican governors invested \$14 million—on average—brand new, additional dollars for prekindergarten. If Republican governors around the country can understand the importance of high-quality preschool, I hope Republican legislators in Montana can, too.

Opportunity and achievement gaps exist—let's close them. Let's not miss this opportunity to give the next generation an Early Edge.

## Nebraska: Governor Pete Ricketts (R)

January 22, 2015

<https://governor.nebraska.gov/press/governor-ricketts-state-state-remarks>

(No reference)

## Nevada: Governor Brian Sandoval (R)

January 15, 2015

<http://gov.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/govnvgov/Content/About/2015-SOS.pdf>

[T]he success of our state is inextricably linked to the well-being of our most vulnerable citizens. And I believe we have made significant progress in that regard...We expanded full-day kindergarten. We created new programs for English language learners. We increased funding for special education, supported school choice through the creation of a Charter School Authority, and dedicated ourselves to college- and career-ready standards and assessments.

...I submit to you this evening that an education system for this century requires bold new ideas to meet the reality of our time. I am asking the Legislature to join me in beginning the work of comprehensive modernization of our education system to meet the needs of today's students and the New Nevada.

This work begins with our youngest learners. **Nevada has the lowest preschool attendance of any state in the nation. Thanks to a recent federal grant, and matching funds provided in my budget, we will improve this worst-in-the-country statistic. My budget also finishes what we started two years ago, the expansion of full-day kindergarten to every elementary school in Nevada.** These two efforts provide a foundation for the future success of all our children.

We must also improve our students' reading skills. Studies show that a child's chances of graduating from high school are cut in half if they are not reading at grade level by third grade. I will therefore work with Senator Becky Harris and the Senate Committee on Education to introduce a "Read by Three" bill to help ensure every student is reading by third grade. My budget includes nearly \$30 million to support this literacy effort.

...All in—from preschool through graduate school, from increased enrollment to targeted spending—the proposals I have outlined tonight will invest \$882 million in education in our state over the next two years. Ladies and gentlemen, I do not make these proposals lightly. I know they represent a change in the way we approach education. But I also know that our system has to improve and that every child deserves the opportunity to succeed. This investment in our children and transformation of our education system is absolutely necessary, and so, tonight, I ask for your help in creating the funding base to pay for it.

## New Hampshire: Governor Maggie Hassan (D)

February 12, 2015

<http://www.governor.nh.gov/media/news/2015/documents/pr-2015-02-12-budget-address.pdf>

Investing in the future of young Granite Staters doesn't begin or end with higher education, and this budget takes steps to ensure that we are providing our students with a rigorous public education at every step of the way. **We know that early childhood education, including full-day kindergarten, is a fundamental aspect of long-term success and that access to education during these critical years of learning shouldn't be determined by a parent's income.**

While the money isn't available to bring full-day kindergarten statewide all at once, we can take steps to move forward, including developing a better understanding of the capacity of each district to expand to full-day. This budget includes a study to evaluate the facility needs of local districts to make full-day kindergarten a reality.

## New Jersey: Governor Chris Christie (R)

January 13, 2015

<http://www.state.nj.us/governor/news/news/552015/approved/20150113e.html>

(No reference)

## New Mexico: Governor Susana Martinez (R)

January 20, 2015

[http://governor.state.nm.us/uploads/PressRelease/191a415014634aa89604e0b4790e4768/2015\\_State\\_of\\_the\\_State\\_Address.pdf](http://governor.state.nm.us/uploads/PressRelease/191a415014634aa89604e0b4790e4768/2015_State_of_the_State_Address.pdf)

**On my watch, we've more than doubled pre-k funding, and I'm proposing more this year.** We've made K-3 Plus permanent, allowing 18,000 struggling readers to take advantage of summer tutoring.

## New York: Governor Andrew Cuomo (D)

January 21, 2015

<http://www.governing.com/topics/politics/gov-new-york-andrew-cuomo.html>

Our education system needs dramatic reform and it has for years and I believe this is the year to do it. This is the year to roll up our sleeves and take on the dramatic challenge that has eluded us for so many years for so many reasons. We will pursue an ambitious P-12 agenda. Professionalize teaching and increase standards, strengthen teacher evaluations, reward excellent teachers, transform the state's failing schools, expeditiously but effectively removing failing teachers, expand charter schools, pass the ETC and the DREAM Act, extend mayoral control, continue support for four-year-olds and pre-k. Let's do them one at a time.

...When a school fails for three years, a not-for-profit, another school district or a turn-around expert must take over the school and they must create a plan to dramatically overhaul and improve the entire school. We'll turn each school into a community school and develop a management overhaul plan. The takeover entity will overhaul the curriculum, override agreements will terminate underperforming staff, provide salary incentives and grant priority for pre-k, extended learning, community schools, early college high schools, wraparound services so we are giving the students the services they need but we are making the changes that we have to make.

...We know that the earlier students enter a classroom the more opportunity for success they have. Therefore, we have committed \$1.5 billion to phase in full-day pre-k for four-year-olds and we are excited about that. **We'll invest another \$365 million this year in pre-k for four-year-olds, but we also want to take the next step and start designing programs—not for four-year-olds—but for three-year-olds.** All of the studies say that the earlier you get them in, the better. Let New York be ahead of the curve by enrolling three-year-olds who are now making some of the largest cognitive and behavioral gains. We are going to start this with a \$25 million offering for pre-k for three-year-olds.

## North Carolina: Governor Pat McCrory (R)

February 4, 2015

<http://www.governor.state.nc.us/newsroom/press-releases/20150204/transcript-2015-state-state-address>

Our most recent graduation rate is the highest in North Carolina's history. **With continued investments in pre-k and continued reforms, such as NCWorks, in job training at our community colleges, we can expect to see even higher graduation rates, and more people filling the skills gap in North Carolina.** Still, we have to build an education system that rewards teachers like James Ford for their results-driven leadership. So that North Carolina is a teaching destination, not a layover for our state's best and brightest.

## North Dakota: Governor Jack Dalrymple (R)

January 6, 2015

[http://governor.nd.gov/files/news\\_docs/2015%20State%20of%20the%20State%20Address%202.pdf](http://governor.nd.gov/files/news_docs/2015%20State%20of%20the%20State%20Address%202.pdf)

Education is the foundation upon which we continue to build our future. And working together, we have steadily improved North Dakota's K-12 education system. We have put to rest the challenging issues of funding equity and adequacy, and we have significantly reduced the local cost of education by increasing the state's funding commitment. **We have an opportunity during this legislative session to build on our accomplishments by maintaining strong funding for K-12 schools, by investing in early childhood education and by addressing the extraordinary needs of schools challenged by rapid enrollment growth.**

**Ohio: Governor John Kasich (R)****February 24, 2015**<http://www.governor.ohio.gov/Portals/0/2015%20Kasich%20SOTS%20Transcript.pdf>

Early childhood education. Back in 2011, 5,700 preschool slots. **We're going to 17,000, 17,000 preschool slots for kids.** They'll be better prepared for school.

...I'd love to tell you that it's going to be real simple, but I believe that by changing welfare—and by the way, if you make more money in your job, we're not going to take away your day care. You're going to be able to have your child care because we don't want to penalize you for getting ahead. Okay? It's another thing we need to do.

**Oklahoma: Governor Mary Fallin (R)****February 3, 2015**<http://www.ok.gov/governor/documents/2015%20State%20of%20the%20State%20Remarks.pdf>

(No reference)

**Oregon: Governor Kate Brown (D)****April 17, 2015**[http://www.oregon.gov/gov/media/Pages/speeches/PDX\\_city\\_club\\_0415.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/gov/media/Pages/speeches/PDX_city_club_0415.aspx)

What is the state of opportunity for all Oregonians to access high-quality education from cradle to career?

Through my work early on as a family advocate and legislator, I know there is much more we can do as a state to make sure every Oregon child is ready to learn when she or he starts kindergarten, and reading proficiently by third grade. **That is why I have prioritized investment in early learning and literacy programs for Oregon's youngest learners—to close opportunity gaps for students before they develop.**

**Pennsylvania: Governor Tom Wolf (D)****March 3, 2015**<http://www.governing.com/topics/finance/gov-tom-wolf-pennsylvania-speech.html>

For too long, we haven't paid enough attention to the fact that Pennsylvania ranks near the bottom of the country in state investments in kindergarten through 12th-grade education. We need to change that. This budget increases our investment in public schools at every grade level. It also recognizes that our responsibility to provide a great education does not begin at kindergarten and end with high school. **That's why my budget also expands access to early childhood education by increasing the number of children in pre-k by 75 percent.**

**Rhode Island: Governor Gina Raimondo (D)****March 12, 2015**<http://www.governor.ri.gov/newsroom/speeches/2015/budget.php>

This budget invests record amounts in our K-12 public schools. **This budget also commits the necessary matching funds that allow us to more than triple the number of state-sponsored pre-k classrooms in Rhode Island.** It's never too early to put our youngest learners on a path to opportunity. And we still have almost 2,000 kindergarten students who don't have access to full-day K. My husband and I know firsthand how much our kids flourished because of all-day K and every Rhode Island kid deserves the same opportunity.

Senate President Paiva Weed is passionate about this too and **I'm eager to work with her and others to bring universal full-day kindergarten to every school by September 2016.** This budget makes it possible. Teachers want it. Parents want it. And our kids need it. Let's get it done.

## South Carolina: Governor Nikki R. Haley (R)

January 21, 2015

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article13941134.html>

(No reference)

## South Dakota: Governor Dennis Daugaard (R)

January 13, 2015

<http://sd.gov/governor/docs/2015%20State%20of%20the%20State.pdf>

(No reference)

## Tennessee: Governor Bill Haslam (R)

February 9, 2015

<http://www.tn.gov/stateofthestate/files/2015/020915%20State%20of%20the%20State%20Address%20-%20FINAL.pdf>

(No reference)

## Texas: Governor Greg Abbott (R)

February 17, 2015

<http://gov.texas.gov/news/press-release/20543>

To improve our schools we must begin by building a strong foundation at the very beginning. Our goal should be to ensure all Texas students are performing at grade level in reading and math by the time they finish the third grade.

To begin that process, **my budget provides additional funding for schools that adopt high-quality pre-k programs.** My plan also provides pre-k through third-grade teachers with world-class literacy and math teacher training. I want to thank Senators Judith Zaffirini and Donna Campbell and Representatives Dan Huberty, Helen Giddings and Joe Deshotel for carrying my pre-k legislation to improve early education.

**To begin the process of building a better education system in Texas, we must improve early education. This is why I'm declaring early education as my first emergency item as governor.** Our children and their future have no time for delay.

## Utah: Governor Gary R. Herbert (R)

January 28, 2015

<http://blog.governor.utah.gov/2015/01/governor-herbert-delivers-2015-state-of-the-state-address/>

(No reference)

## Vermont: Governor Peter Shumlin (D)

January 15, 2015

<http://governor.vermont.gov/sites/governor/files/Budget%20Address%20printed%20version%201-15%20final.pdf>

Let's not forget the reasons we are striving every day to improve our education system. It is the right thing to do for our kids. It also prepares them for good jobs, drives economic development, and attracts families to our state which desperately needs young workers.

We have had many successes. **I am proud that my administration secured two highly competitive early childhood grants, attracting \$70 million dollars in federal funds to help give our youngest Vermonters a strong start.**

## Virginia: Governor Terry McAuliffe (D)

January 14, 2015

<https://governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/speeches/first-state-of-the-commonwealth-address/>

If you take a look at the policy actions my administration has taken, and the proposals I have set before the General Assembly this year, you will find that every one of them comes back to creating new economic opportunity for Virginians. I know many of you will agree that the first step we must take to achieve that goal is developing the world-class workforce that innovative employers need in a 21st century economy. Virginia is home to the best workers on the planet. We owe them a workforce development system that prepares them for economic success, from infancy through adulthood.

...If we are going to lead in a global economy, we cannot wait until our students reach kindergarten to begin preparing them for success. Last year I formed the first-ever Children's Cabinet, as well as the Commonwealth Council on Childhood Success and I asked them to take a 360-degree approach to increasing economic opportunity for Virginia students from before birth through adulthood.

We are already making great progress. **I was proud to work with U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan to help Virginia win a \$17.5 million grant last month to expand our preschool program so that another 1,600 at-risk four-year-olds can learn in a pre-k classroom in their community.** We will put every federal dollar we can get to work preparing our students to succeed.

But it is equally important that we make pragmatic use of the money we already have. So I have introduced budget language that will allow communities that have exceeded their pre-k budgets to receive leftover funds not used in other divisions, so that they can offer more children the great start to their education they deserve.

I am also proposing legislation to keep our children safe by increasing the number of day care facilities across Virginia that are licensed and properly inspected by state and local governments.

## Washington: Governor Jay Inslee (D)

January 13, 2015

[http://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/speeches/2015\\_StateOfTheState.pdf](http://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/speeches/2015_StateOfTheState.pdf)

Our most fundamental commitment needs to be to the very youngest Washingtonians. We know the greatest untapped asset in the state is the potential of a three- and four-year-old. The latest neuroscience research at the University of Washington shows that at this age, children's minds have a tremendous capacity for learning.

Early learning is the best investment we can make in our future.

That's where we start. But our success will require a continuum of education, from early learning all the way through higher education. **That's why my proposal makes a \$2.3 billion investment in our children's future, including the largest-ever state investment in early learning. This means 6,000 more low-income children could attend high-quality preschools.**

My proposal fully funds class-size reductions in kindergarten through third grade. My proposal provides all-day kindergarten across the state. It gives our teachers their first cost-of-living allowance since 2008. It helps families struggling with the costs of higher education by freezing tuition and boosting financial aid so that 17,000 more students can get scholarships. These investments are not based on wishful thinking. They are based on a rock-solid foundation of proven strategies, established reforms and demonstrable student performance.

## West Virginia: Governor Earl Ray Tomblin (D)

January 14, 2015

<http://www.governor.wv.gov/media/pressreleases/2015/Pages/Governor-Tomblin-Delivers-State-of-the-State-Address.aspx>

(No reference)

## Wisconsin: Governor Scott Walker (R)

January 13, 2015

<http://walker.wi.gov/newsroom/press-release/2015-state-state-address-moving-wisconsin-forward>

(No reference)

## Wyoming: Governor Matt Mead (R)

January 14, 2015

<http://governor.wyo.gov/media/documents/>

We will keep working on education, every level—**early childhood education**, K-12, our community colleges and UW—to get things right. For the future of our state, we have to get education right.