



Vermont's Child Care Campaign: 2023 Legislative Agenda

Our 2023 Legislative Agenda builds on decades of child care advocacy in Vermont. In 2023, our goal is to pass a bill that funds a quality, affordable child care system that supports our children, families, and early childhood educators, and puts our economy and workforce on a sustainable path.

Our primary objective is to secure the long-term public investment needed to fully implement the state's child care commitments, so that:

- Every child has access to quality child care;
- Families spend no more than 10% of their income on child care; and
- Early childhood educators are fairly compensated and supported.

Our 2023 Legislative Agenda focuses on five key areas:

1. Affordability
2. Support for early childhood educators
3. Governance
4. Accessibility
5. Equity

Once passed into law, these priorities will take effect using a phased-in approach over the course of four years.



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AFFORDABILITY

No family will spend more than 10% of their household income on child care, and many will spend far less. During the four-year phase-in, more and more families will become eligible for child care financial support each year.

SUPPORT FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS

Increase early childhood educator wages, benefits, and overall support.

GOVERNANCE

Right now, child care oversight is split between two state agencies. We must create a single, empowered leader in Vermont state government who is charged with overseeing Vermont's child care system.

ACCESSIBILITY

We estimate that 8,700 children in Vermont do not have access to the child care they need. To meet current demand, we need to grow Vermont's early childhood education workforce, increase the physical capacity of child care programs, and ensure that all children have access to a program that best meets their needs.

EQUITY

Through specific programs to support families of color and other people marginalized by systemic inequities in Vermont, increased affordability and accessibility, and better support for early childhood educators and child care programs, Vermont will be able to build a more equitable future for everyone. These proposals are informed by a coalition of partners, stakeholders, and early childhood education organizations, and feedback from families of color and families with children with disabilities and special needs in Vermont.



For the first time in Vermont's history, we have the pieces in place to make long-term public investments in our state's child care system that will revitalize our economy, support our children, families, and early childhood educators, and shape future generations.

We cannot miss this opportunity in 2023.

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