



# Keep Early Learning Strong

The current public health and economic crisis is threatening Pennsylvania's early learning system.

## How?

Providers have lost over

**\$325 million**

(at a minimum) through Labor Day due to new costs and lost revenues.<sup>1</sup>

Over **300** providers have permanently **CLOSED** across Pennsylvania.<sup>1</sup>

88% of open child care providers are serving fewer children, overall enrollment is down by

**66%**.

**1,000+**

additional providers are at risk of permanent closure threatening not only child care but pre-k services as well—63 percent of children enrolled in Pre-K Counts are served by high-quality child care programs.<sup>1</sup>

**High-quality programs will continue to be threatened,**

impacting children's social, emotional and educational short- and long-term gains.

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# Pennsylvanians value early learning programs.

Greater than **2/3** of voters in competitive legislative districts oppose cuts to early childhood programs.

In fact, **74%** support additional funding for both Pre-K and Child Care Access.<sup>2</sup>

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## What can be done to keep early learning strong?

- 1) At a minimum, maintain state funding for the Child Care Services and Child Care Assistance line items—at FY 19-20 levels.
- 2) Help offset the \$325 million in pandemic-related costs to early learning providers by giving serious consideration to additional state resources to stabilize the sector moving forward (especially high-quality providers), while ensuring that all available federal funds for this purpose be fully utilized now and in the future.

Continued investment is needed to ensure the healthy development of Pennsylvania's youngest children and support working families as they navigate the new realities of work and school for the duration of the pandemic and beyond.

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1 Sirinides, Philip Ph.D. "The Impact of COVID-19 on Child Care Facilities in Pennsylvania." Institute of State and Regional Affairs, The Penn State University at Harrisburg, August 2020.

2 Harper Polling phone survey of 1895 registered voters across Pennsylvania Senate Districts 9, 13, 15, 37, 45 and 49 April 13-21, 2020 (margin of error of +/-2.25%).



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