

2019 Legislative Wrap-up

Colorado Makes Bold Strides for Children and Families



As Colorado's leading catalyst in providing early care and education, Clayton Early Learning proudly provided subject matter expertise to inform State leadership throughout the 2019 legislative session. With the well-being of Colorado's youngest children and their families at heart, we appreciate our legislators' thoughtful and bold approaches in addressing critical issues for children, their families and teachers. As a result of these forward-thinking efforts, Colorado is poised to take several positive steps to improve the lives of our youngest children in the coming year. Here are some of the highlights that closely align with the mission of Clayton Early Learning.

Early Childhood Education & Development

Full Funding for Full-Day Kindergarten and Expanded Pre-K, HB19-1262 provides State funding for full-day kindergarten, which will make an immediate and multi-faceted impact on the way early education is supported in Colorado, including the reallocation of funds opening 5,200 early learning slots for children currently without options for preschool.

Infant and Family Child Care Action Plan, SB19-063 addresses Colorado's scarcity of licensed childcare options for infants, with particular emphasis on the rapidly declining number of licensed family childcare homes. The bill requires an intensive, solution-based analysis, informing future plans to increase equitable opportunities for children and their working parents across the state.

Income Tax Credit for Early Childhood Educators, HB19-1005 will incentivize further development of a robust and well-trained teaching workforce with the creation of a state income tax credit available to educators holding an early childhood professional credential and working in licensed child care facility that has achieved a higher level of quality as measured by the state's Quality Rating and Improvement System.

Early Childhood Development Special Districts, HB19-1052 allows communities throughout Colorado to establish special tax districts to support early childhood development services in the same way they locally fund other essential public services.

School Discipline for Preschool through Second Grade, HB19-1194 encourages non-punitive behavior management, while greatly limiting suspensions and expulsions in early childhood settings, addressing the alarming disproportions with which such extreme actions are applied to boys, children of color, and children with disabilities.

Healthy Families, Healthy Children

Dental Services for Pregnant People, HB19-1038 expands basic medical coverage to include dental care for pregnant people, which lead to healthy pregnancies and ultimately thriving babies.

Maternal Mortality Review Committee, HB19-1122 strengthens Colorado's existing Maternal Mortality Review Committee to further address rising rates of maternal death connected to childbirth, which disproportionately affects Black and African American and Native American women. Given that 80 percent of maternal deaths that have been reviewed were deemed preventable, this bill will help Colorado promote safe and healthy pregnancies and deliveries, which give babies a strong and loving start in life alongside their birth mothers.

Mental Health Parity Insurance, HB19-1269 assists parents previously forced to navigate inadequate insurance coverage to treat mental health or substance abuse with stronger enforcement of existing regulations, paving the way for better access to critically needed care and improving family health at every level.

Support for Working Families

Family Medical Leave Insurance Program, SB19-188 provides an important next step for Colorado to provide a comprehensive plan for paid family leave, by directing a thorough study to inform an effective and affordable plan for the near future.

Child Care Expenses Tax Credit for Low Income Families, HB19-1013 reauthorizes an existing tax credit regarding childcare expenses incurred by low-income families for eight years, easing financial burdens and promoting a higher level of self-sufficiency.

Census Outreach Grant Program, HB19-1239 creates a 2020 Census outreach program to ensure accurate counting of Colorado families and children.

Contact Us

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