

# Strategies for Children

## our mission

SFC works to ensure that Massachusetts invests the resources needed for all children, from birth to age five, to access high-quality early education programs that prepare them for success in school and life.

## vision 2020

Massachusetts will stand out as a leader among states for its effective implementation of early learning systems that prepare its youngest citizens for success in school.

## unique approach

SFC leverages its core strengths in policy development and monitoring, constituency building and partnerships, research, advocacy, communications/outreach, and practice at both the local and state levels to achieve its goals.

SFC is a catalyst for critical resource allocation, helping state policymakers and communities make smart choices to ensure that investments in early learning achieve high-leverage impact and lasting outcomes.



## our wins

Five consecutive years of post-recession [state budget increases for early education and care](#), \$70 million since FY13.

Massachusetts awarded [\\$15 million federal Preschool Expansion Grant](#) in December 2014.

Enactment of [An Act Relative to Third Grade Reading Proficiency](#) in 2012.

Creation of nation's first statewide [Third Grade Reading Proficiency Learning Network](#) in 2012.

Creation of the policy foundation for Massachusetts' [\\$50 million federal Early Learning Challenge grant](#) in December 2011.

Launch of a [Quality Rating and Improvement System](#) in FY11 which awarded \$2.8 million in grants its first year.

Creation and cumulative funding of [\\$78 million for the Universal Pre-Kindergarten grant program](#).

Creation and cumulative funding of [\\$41 million for the Early Childhood Educators Scholarship Program](#).

Enactment of [An Act Relative to Early Education and Care](#) in 2008, for creating universal pre-Kindergarten in statute.

Creation of the [nation's first consolidated Department of Early Education and Care](#) in FY06.

[Tripling of the percentage of children in full-day kindergarten](#) since 2000 to 95% today.



Recipient of the [2014 Excellence in Advocacy award](#) from the Massachusetts Nonprofit Network.



## to achieve our mission and vision, we...

### develop and monitor policy for impact

In partnership with practitioners and policymakers, we advance and monitor research-based public policies, with an emphasis on state policy, budget, and legislation. We advocate for smart, effective, and accountable investment of public and private funds, and serve as a resource on early education to elected officials and candidates for office.

### build sustained awareness and support through intentional media/outreach

Our earned media work has resulted in more than 150 positive editorials and has positioned us as a resource for the press. Our Eye on Early Education blog is one of few early education blogs with a significant national presence. We stimulate conversation on Twitter and Facebook to build a grassroots movement for children.

### strengthen community delivery systems

We serve as thought partners to local communities across the state, working to improve their early learning delivery systems in order to achieve improved outcomes and effective local coordination. We help align local efforts with state policy and established research.

### inform and advance the national movement

We help to lead and participate in multiple networks to advance policies at the federal level, learn best practices from other states, and bring new knowledge and resources to Massachusetts. In partnership with the Massachusetts Congressional delegation, we advocate for increased federal early education funding. We are frequently asked to provide technical assistance and consulting services to advocacy and philanthropic groups in other states.

## our bottom line results

Increased number of Massachusetts children (birth-5) who are enrolled in high quality early learning programs and who enter kindergarten ready to learn.

### stay connected

