

In order to be an effective early education advocate it is important to understand the state budget cycle and how to best impact the budget process. The Massachusetts budget runs on a fiscal year that begins July 1 and ends June 31.

JANUARY 2010 Governor Deval Patrick submits his FY11 budget recommendations, known as House 2.



FEBRUARY–MARCH 2010 The House of Representatives and Senate develop their respective budget proposals.



APRIL 2010 The House of Representatives debates its budget recommendations.



MAY 2010 The Senate debates its budget recommendations.



JUNE 2010 Conference Committee members reconcile the differences between the House and Senate budgets and return the budget to both chambers for final approval.



JULY 2010 By July 1, 2010, Governor Patrick signs the FY11 budget into law and the new budget year begins.

Take action:

- Send a letter to Governor Patrick asking him to preserve and protect investments in high-quality early education and UPK.
- Join us on Facebook to stay updated on all budget matters.

Take action:

- Set up a time to meet with your legislators—or write or call them—to urge them to make young children and families a priority in the state budget.
- Attend Advocacy Training Day at the State House on March 16. RSVP to mmclaughlin@earlyeducationforall.org.
- Join the Rising Stars Express. Find instructions at earlyeducationforall.org.

Take action:

- Invite your state legislators to visit your program by asking them to read to the children or to attend an event.
- Celebrate Week of the Young Child (WOYC) by e-mailing all of your friends and family about the importance of early education.

Take action:

- Invite your state legislators to attend an end-of-the-year event at your program.
- Write a letter to the editor of your local paper about the importance of protecting funding for high-quality early childhood education in the state budget. E-mail Mike at mmclaughlin@earlyeducationforall.org for a sample letter.

Take action:

- Visit mass.gov/legis to find out which legislators are appointed to the Conference Committee and how to contact them.
- Invite all of your friends to join our Facebook group

What you can do:

- Visit earlyeducationforall.org.
- E-mail Mike at mmclaughlin@earlyeducationforall.org for updated action steps.

Early Education for All, the signature campaign of Strategies for Children, works to ensure that all children in Massachusetts have access to high-quality early education and care.