

# LOOKING BACK to LOOK FORWARD

10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY  
An Act Relative to Early Education and Care

**Tuesday, December 11, 2018**  
**House Members Lounge**  
**Massachusetts State House**



**MISSION:** SFC works to ensure that Massachusetts invests the resources needed to enable all children to access high quality early learning programs that prepare them for success in school and life.

**Policy  
Development  
and Monitoring**

**Constituency  
Building**

**Advocacy**

**Research**

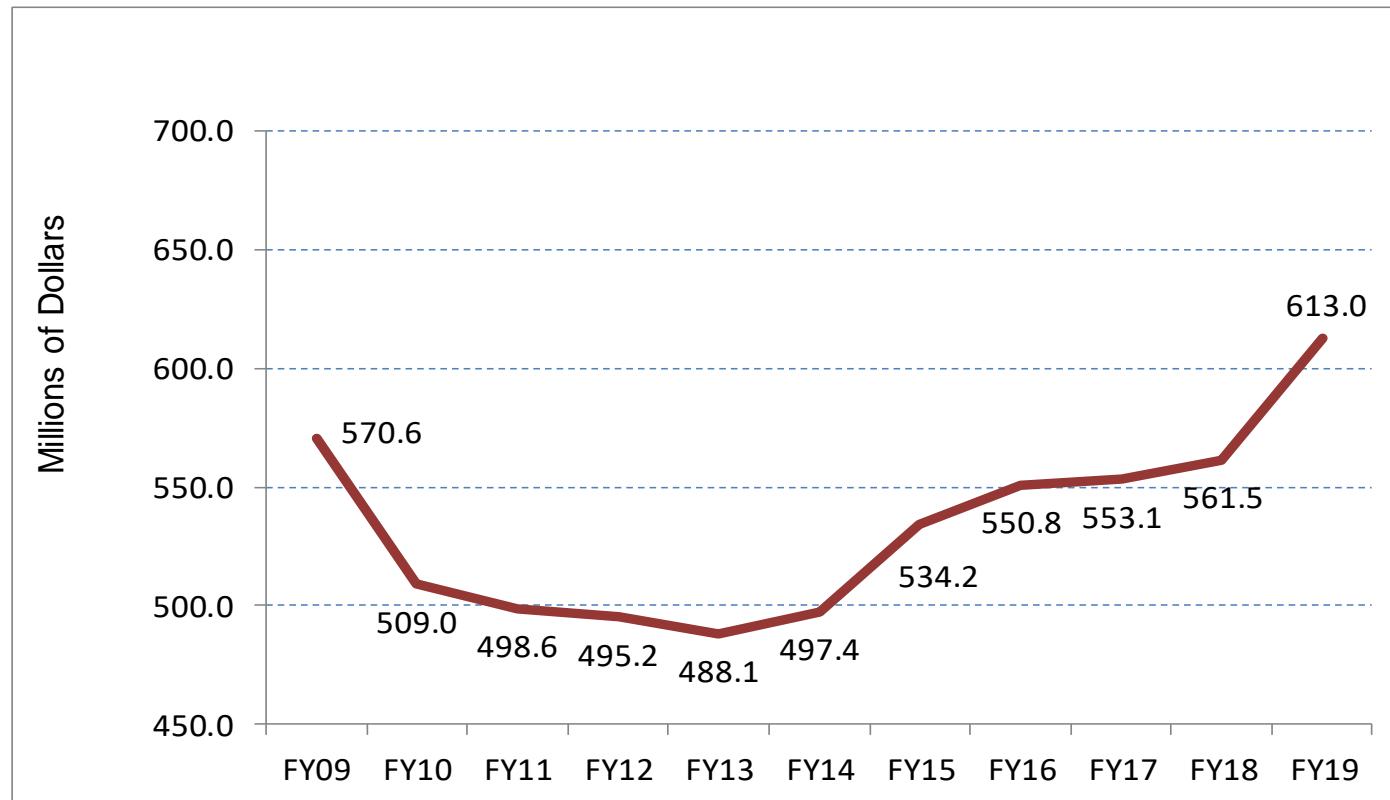
**Communications  
and Outreach**

**Implementation**

- Creation of the nation's first consolidated Department of Early Education and Care in FY06.
- Creation and cumulative funding of \$44 million for the Early Childhood Educators Scholarship Program.
- Creation of the Universal Pre-Kindergarten grant in FY07, and cumulative funding of \$78 million over a 10-year period.
- **Enactment of An Act Relative to Early Education and Care in 2008.**

- Quality Rating and Improvement System launched in FY11 which awarded \$2.8 million in grants its first year.
- Massachusetts awarded \$50 million federal Early Learning Challenge grant in December 2011.
- Enactment of An Act Relative to Third Grade Reading Proficiency in 2012.
- Massachusetts awarded \$15 million federal Preschool Expansion Grant in December 2014, serving 850 4-year-olds annually in five cities.
- State-funded preschool planning grants have supported 18 communities' strategic plans since FY16.

- Six consecutive years of post-recession state budget increases for early education and care, \$125 million since fiscal year 2013.
- Historic \$38.5 million investment in the early education and care workforce in 2017.
- Tripling of the percentage of children in full-day kindergarten since 2000 to 96% today.



**Chapter 23 of the Acts of 2003** created the Early Education and Care Council, comprised of the Commissioners of OCCS, DOE and DPH, and charged with developing a comprehensive plan to coordinate, integrate and streamline publicly funded early education and care and administrative functions.

**Chapter 205 of the Acts of 2004** established the Board and Department of Early Education and Care, with for a year-long planning process including specific milestones and benchmarks.

**Chapter 149 of the Acts of 2004, Section 344** included language establishing: a three member Early Education and Care Council, which was charged to make recommendations to the Education Committee to consolidate all early education and care services into a Department and a 21 Member Advisory Committee, charged with making recommendations to the Education Committee on the design of a universal preschool program, workforce development system, and a school readiness assessment system.

## An Act Relative to Early Education and Care

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An Act Establishing Early Education for All was filed for the 2005-2006 legislative session.

With supportive testimony from business, early education, and labor leaders, a new version of this bill, An Act Relative to Early Education and Care, received a favorable report from the Joint Committee on Education and was unanimously passed by both the House and Senate.

Governor Romney vetoed the bill on August 4, 2006.

## **An Act Relative to Early Education and Care**

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An Act Relative to Early Education and Care was re-filed for consideration during the 2007-2008 legislative session, again receiving a favorable report from the Joint Committee on Education. The bill again unanimously passed the House and Senate on May 28, 2008, and July 10, 2008, respectively, and was signed into law by Governor Deval Patrick on July 31, 2008.

An Act Relative to Early Education and Care is a comprehensive statute for the effective development of a coordinated system of early education and care in Massachusetts, greatly enhancing EEC's original enabling statute.

## **Section 24.. The Department shall...**

- Be the lead agency of the commonwealth for administering and providing early education and care programs and services to children.
- Licensing
- Mental Health consultation
- Consolidated waitlist
- Manage UPK
- Establish schedule revising rate structure and sliding fee scale
- Adopt criteria for income eligibility
- Analyze and evaluate budget requests

## **Section 24.. The Department shall...**

- Seek to increase the availability of programs that work with families schedules
- Provide resource and referral
- Seek and accept federal funds and assist other agencies to take full advantage of funds
- Provide technical assistance to potential providers
- Facilitate the development of the early education and care workforce

## **Section 24.. The Department shall...**

- Establish and regularly update:
  - Comprehensive database of early educators and providers
  - Comprehensive database of children both waiting for and receiving early education and care services, in this chapter called the student database, that is compatible with relevant databases at the department of elementary and secondary education and the executive office` of health and human services;
- Collect and disseminate information to assist parents
- Plan for and address the unique needs of families with infants and toddlers.

## **SECTION 36, Section 12... Performance measurement system**

- This system shall include, but not be limited to, outcomes of the kindergarten readiness assessment system.
- A comprehensive system for measuring the performance and effectiveness of preschool programs providing early education and care.

## **SECTION 36, Section 13... UPK**

Subject to appropriation, establish:

- Voluntary, universally accessible, high-quality early education and care programs and services for preschool-aged children,
- Delivered through a mixed system of providers... public and private,
- With DESE, develop a joint policy on kindergarten transitions,
- Study and present ... the programmatic, financing, and phase-in options for ... universal implementation.

- Speaker Pro Tempore Pat Haddad
- Leo Delaney, Former Executive Director of Ellis Memorial in Boston
- Plymouth County District Attorney Timothy J. Cruz
  
- Education Undersecretary Ann Reale
- EEC Commissioner Tom Weber
- Amy Kershaw, Associate Commissioner, MA DTA, former SFC Research and Policy Director and former EEC Associate Commissioner

- Senator Sal DiDomenico
- Representative Andy Vargas
- Kretcha Roldan, Executive Director, Elizabeth Peabody House in Somerville
  
- Representative Alice Peisch
- Justin Pasquariello, Executive Director, East Boston Social Centers
- Speaker of the House Robert DeLeo

- What was the context like in 2008? What were your hopes in passing the bill? What has progress looked like?
- What has changed in terms of the way legislators, the public feel about early education?
- Talk about what you have learned at the local level and how that has influenced your legislative priorities
- How does the progress we are making with policy and increased investments have an impact in the classrooms and with children and educators? What does that look like? What are the challenges?
- **What is one big idea you have that could help transform the early education and care system? Where should we focus our energy?**
- **What do you hope we can accomplish together short term – upcoming legislative session and long term - in the next 10 years for children and families?**

### The Next Ten Years - A Bold Agenda for Early Education and Care

- All families with young children have access to affordable, high-quality child care.
- All 3- and 4-year-olds living in low-income communities have access to high-quality preschool.
- Early educators are respected, fairly compensated, trained, credentialed, and on a career pathway.
- Kindergarten readiness is defined and measured. Annual reports show positive trends in children's readiness.
- Local communities are ready (and able) to support early learning starting at birth.

# Strategies for Children

 eye on early  
education BLOG



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informed

