

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



Q: WHY DO WE NEED EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION?

A: In order to have a truly world-class system of education, we have to start early. Early childhood education helps children gain the necessary academic, emotional, and social skills to prosper in school and beyond. However, students in Maryland living below the poverty line have limited access towards resources like early childhood education. The Blueprint ensures a strong start to achieving a world-class education by investing in children, families, early education providers, and supportive services.

RELATED INITIATIVES:

TRANSITIONAL SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTION (TSI) GRANTS

Funding provided for one-on-one and small group additional academic support for students in grades K-3 who are identified as struggling learners.

PROVIDER CAPACITY-BUILDING & TUITION ASSISTANCE

Annual increase of funding for capacitybuilding and tuition assistance programs within the Maryland State Department of Education, culminating in \$17 million and \$6 million, respectively.

PREKINDERGARTEN EXPANSION

Funding to broaden the availability of prekindergarten and school readiness services and resources to serve 3- and 4-year-olds from low-income families. Additional funds are provided to support the expansion of voluntary full-day PreK, hire staff, and ensure socioeconomic diversity across classrooms.

PATTY & JUDY CENTER EXPANSION

Funding for a statewide expansion of critical early-intervention programs. The Blueprint will create at least 30 new family support (Patty) and 135 new early learning (Judy) centers across Maryland by 2030.

Learn more at: www.strongschoolsmaryland.org



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



SLIDING SCALE



THE BLUEPRINT AIMS TO EXPAND THE AVAILABILITY OF HIGH-QUALITY, FULL DAY PREKINDERGARTEN TO CHILDREN ACROSS MARYLAND. THE BLUEPRINT ACCOMPLISHES THIS WITH A SLIDING SCALE ESTABLISHED BY THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

SEE THE ILLUSTRATION BELOW FOR A BREAKDOWN:

NO COST

Tier I = income <300% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)

PARTIAL COST

Tier II = income between 301% - 600% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)

FULL COST

Tier III = income >600% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)



PATTY & JUDY CENTERS

FAMILY SUPPORT CENTERS- ALSO KNOWN AS PATTY CENTERS- ARE FREE, COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES PROVIDED FOR CHILDREN FROM BIRTH TO 3 YEARS OF AGE AND THEIR PARENTS. THESE CENTERS USE ACTIVITIES FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN TO PROMOTE CHILDREN'S HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT. THE CENTERS ALSO CONNECT FAMILIES TO A SOLID NETWORK OF LASTING PEER AND PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT.

JUDY CENTERS, OR EARLY LEARNING CENTERS, IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR FAMILIES. THESE SITES PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION SERVICES TO YOUNG CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES AS A MEANS TO PROMOTE SCHOOL READINESS THROUGH A DEDICATED STAFF OF EARLY LEARNING PROFESSIONALS AND COLLABORATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS.



Learn more at: www.strongschoolsmaryland.org