

***Education Commission of the States***

**Press Release: State Pre-K Funding for 2015-16 Fiscal Year: National trends in state preschool funding**

Policymakers from both sides of the aisle continued a trend of boosting state investments in pre-k programs during the 2015-16 fiscal year, with 32 states and the District of Columbia combining for a 12 percent increase over the previous year.

*[State Pre-K Funding for 2015-16 Fiscal Year: National trends in state preschool funding](http://www.ecs.org/state-pre-k-funding-for-2015-16-fiscal-year/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)*, a new analysis from Education Commission of the States, highlights an increase in these early learning programs for the fourth-straight year. The report includes several state examples and an overview of the pre-k programs they have in place.

“This continuing bump in pre-k program funding is a promising sign for the academic success of our youngest students,” said Emily Parker, the report’s co-author. “Increasing the number of students in high-quality preschool programs is a way to set young learners on a path to a secure economic future and stable workforce.”

*Key highlights from the report:*

* Total state funding for preschool programs increased by $767 million in the 2014-15 fiscal year to a total of nearly $7 billion.
* Support for preschool transcends partisan labels, with 22 states with Republican governors and 10 states with Democratic governors (plus the District of Columbia) increasing funding for pre-k programs in 2015-16.
* Five states still do not invest state funds into preschool programs – Idaho, Montana, New Hampshire, South Dakota and Wyoming.

*For questions, contact Education Commission of the States Communications Specialist Brady Delander at bdelander@ecs.org or (303) 299.3622.*