

## **About groundWork™**

groundWork™ is a coalition of early care and education leaders, parents, early childhood professionals, business leaders and organizations who have come together to promote state investments and policies that will address the needs of Ohio's youngest children. Developed with the growing realization that increasing investments in high-quality early care and education result in increased school readiness, student success, and overall economic returns to the state, groundWork™ created a set of policy recommendations to move Ohio toward a comprehensive, high quality, early care and education system.

## **Recommendations**

The groundWork™ initiative recommends taking the following steps towards providing every child in Ohio with a fair start:

### **1. Provide voluntary access to high-quality early care and education programs for all children in Ohio in any appropriate setting designed to meet families' unique needs.**

This includes:

- Expanding opportunities for quality early learning environments for children
- Continuing support for teacher training, parent support, and other quality improvements

### **3. Provide voluntary assessment, screening, and treatment for social and emotional problems for children ages birth to six years in Ohio.**

This includes:

- Increased opportunities for family support and training
- Coaching for teachers to better identify and mediate social and emotional problems

### **4. Increase access to health services and supports for children birth to age six.**

This includes:

- Increased access to and utilization of existing health programs
- Expanding opportunities for home visitation and early intervention for newborn and at-risk children
- Increased access to dental health services

### **4. Provide voluntary access to full-day kindergarten for every child in Ohio.**

This includes:

- Ensuring that every school district in Ohio has the opportunity to offer full-day kindergarten programs to families on a voluntary basis

## **Strong Public Support for High-Quality Early Care and Education**

Early care and education is strongly supported by Ohio voters: in 2005, OECEC found that 77% of voters in the state support universal high-quality early education, and 78% statewide say social, emotional and health readiness for children should be available for all children ages birth to six.

groundWork is endorsed by more than 700 organizations and individuals from a variety of sectors, including business, labor, religion, health care, philanthropy, and education.

**A Credible, Respected Source of Early Education and Care Research**

groundWork is one of Ohio's leading early education and care research resources for state policymakers, the media, and other opinion leaders through its ability to develop and disseminate credible, relevant research. groundWork also collaborates with other statewide initiatives to provide research support and policy formation.

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