



Center for the
Child Care Workforce

RIGHTS, RAISES, RESPECT

News and Issues for the Early Care and Education Workforce

A monthly electronic newsletter

**From the Center for the Child Care Workforce,
A Project of the AFT Educational Foundation (CCW/AFTEF)**

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MAKING THE CONNECTION – ADVOCACY & OUTREACH

NYC Family Child Care Providers Rally for Union Representation

Over a thousand New York City family child care providers rallied in front of the office of their governor, urging him to sign a bill that would allow the city's 32,000 family child care providers to unionize. The bill would grant family child care providers the authority to negotiate with the state on critical issues such as subsidy rates, health insurance, pension benefits and professional development opportunities. The legislation passed in both the Assembly and the Senate.

"These providers, mostly low-income women of color, need a union. They need to make a living wage while giving preschool children a good head start on learning and socializing. The last step to achieve that is for the governor to sign this bill," said Randi Weingarten, president of the United Federation of Teachers-the union that initiated the campaign-and an AFT vice president. "They are among the lowest-paid workers in our region and they have no health benefits, pension plan or paid vacation," she told the chanting crowd.

Despite the efforts of the family child care providers and all who supported them, the governor vetoed the measure. The Senate and Assembly have until June 23 to override the veto.

If the bill is passed, New York will be the fifth state in the country to enact such legislation. For more information, visit http://www.uft.org/news/providers_rally/.

POLICY

Preschool for All Initiative is Defeated in California

On June 6, Californians went to the polls to vote for Proposition 82, the Preschool for All Initiative. Unfortunately, after months of diligent efforts from many supporters and advocates, the measure failed.

Preschool for All was spearheaded by Rob Reiner, who-though disappointed by the defeat-is encouraged that through this campaign they were able to, "raise the profile of the importance of early childhood education and preschool in [California], and it will never go away."

Many more people now understand that preschool has the power to open doors and change lives. There will never be another serious conversation in this state about school reform that does not include preschool. So although the initiative failed, we can celebrate the victory that preschool is now high on the California radar.



First Class Teachers and the American Federation of Teachers will continue to work with others to make sure that no California children are denied the proven benefits that quality preschool provides.

For more information, visit www.preschoolcalifornia.org.

Scholarship Money Reinstated for ECE Teachers in Maryland

Funding for Montgomery County's Child Care Scholarship Program has been reinstated in the county budget. The Montgomery County Council allocated \$56,000 to help early childhood educators get professional development.

This funding is a small but important step in helping early childhood professionals obtain advanced skills and additional education in their fight for rights, raises and respect. These funds will also help to reverse the extremely high turnover rate among workers in the early childhood industry. Our early childhood teachers-and the children they serve-will all benefit from this appropriation.

Funding will be available for the Fall 2006 semester. Contact Maria Rosario at 240/777-1716 for information on how to apply.

If you are a Montgomery County resident, use the template drafted by First Class Teachers to send a letter to your county council member thanking them for taking this important step. Let your elected official know you are watching them and show your support when they do the right thing for the early childhood education community.

RESEARCH & RESOURCES

Parents Rate Quality as Greatest Concern

Parents' greatest concern when evaluating child care is quality, reveals a recent poll released by the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (NACCRRA). *Parents' Perceptions of Child Care in the United States: NACCRRA's National Parent Poll* surveyed 600 parents nationwide to gain a better understanding of what parents consider when they are looking for early childhood settings for their young children. The top concern for parents was quality; cost ranked second.

Nurturing staff with specialized training in early childhood education were quality factors identified by parents in the poll—factors that many parents believed were already required of most staff. Currently only 12 states require staff to have training in early childhood development. Efforts to increase standards for early childhood education staff are making advances in many states and at the federal level. We encourage all policymakers to consider issues of scholarships, loan forgiveness and appropriate compensation and benefits when recommending higher standards for early childhood education staff.

For a copy of the report, visit <http://www.naccrra.org/pubs>.



Find Out How Your State's Early Childhood Education Efforts Measure Up

Several new reports highlight attempts made in states to expand early childhood education.

Leadership Matters: Governors' Pre-K Proposals Fiscal Year 2007, by Pre-K Now. This report examines the prekindergarten funding proposals made by all 50 governors and the mayor of Washington, D.C. According to the report, proposed pre-K funds have increased by nearly 50 percent. To view the report, visit www.preknow.org.

Current and Emerging State Policy Trends in Early Childhood Education, by ECS. This report examines early childhood growth over the past eight years by analyzing state plans for early childhood education, including funding, child care coordination efforts and expanding to full-day kindergarten. For more information, visit www.ecs.org.

How are States Using Community-Based Child Care to Provide Pre-K? by the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP). This on-line map provides a detailed description of 28 states that have provided pre-K by coordinating with community-based child care. Visit the map at <http://www.clasp.org/publications/stateprofiles.htm>.

Is More Better? The Benefits of Full-Day Kindergarten, by the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER). This report found that children who attended an extended-day public preschool program fared better than their peers in half-day programs. For more information on this study, visit www.nieer.org.

The Center for the Child Care Workforce (CCW) was founded in 1978 as the Child Care Employee Project, and in 2002 merged with the American Federation of Teachers Educational Foundation (AFTEF). CCW/AFTEF is a nonprofit research, education and advocacy organization committed to improving early care and education quality by upgrading the compensation, working conditions and training of early childhood professionals.