



Budget Basics: Child Care & Early Childhood Education



FY 2020

**An introduction to Missouri's child care &
early childhood education
services and funding**

Child Care & Early Childhood Education

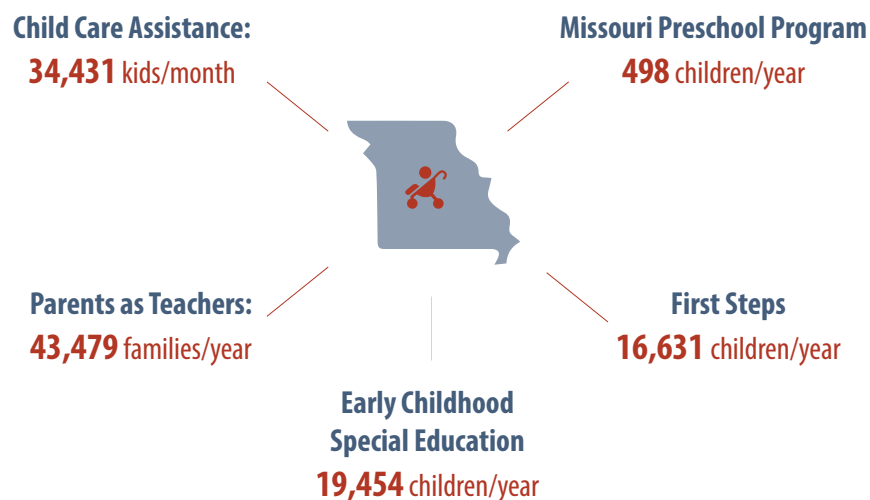
- Missouri’s budget supports childcare and early childhood education programs, which focus on the enrichment and education of children age five and under.
- High quality early education has been associated with improved long-term outcomes for children.
- In addition, the public return on investment for early child programs has been estimated at up to \$7 for every dollar spent.¹

Benefits of quality early childhood education include:²

- Higher educational attainment and income
- Higher likelihood of skilled employment
- Reductions in teen parenthood
- Lower rates of criminal activity and substance use

This primer is intended to serve as a guide for Missourians who care about child care and early childhood education programs, and increase transparency of the budget by providing information on where key programs can be found in the budget bills. Amounts included are Appropriated and include Gubernatorial vetoes, but do not include mid-year restrictions that may have been made.

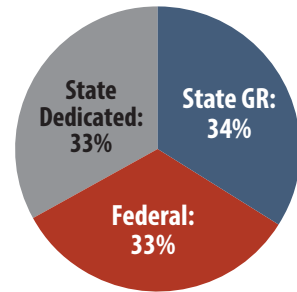
This primer also identifies the major programs and services that fall under the broad childcare and early education category.



Budget Basics

Each year the state takes in and spends approximately \$30 billion.

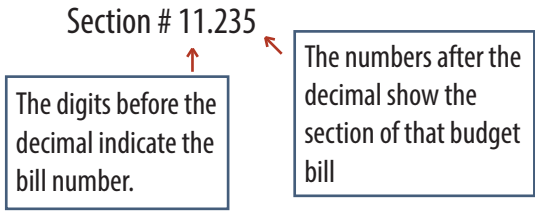
- About one third of the funds come from the federal government for very specific purposes.
- Another third is state revenue dedicated to specific state purposes, like the fuel tax, which is dedicated to transportation.
- Lawmakers have the most authority to allocate the final third, referred to as General Revenue.



Child care and early childhood education programs in Missouri are housed within:

- Department of Social Services (DSS) – Children’s Division [House Bill 11]
- Department of Health & Senior Services (DHSS) – Division of Regulation and Licensure [House Bill 10]
- Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) [House Bill 2]

In order to track appropriations for a specific program, one must locate the appropriate budget bill and section number. (<https://oa.mo.gov/budget-planning/>)



See Appendix for a detailed list of specific childcare and early childhood education programs, relevant section numbers, and funding levels and sources for the current fiscal year.

Unless otherwise noted, all data on funding levels & sources, eligibility criteria, and program enrollment & efficacy were obtained from the 2021 Department Budget Requests through the Office of Administration, Division of Budget Planning
<https://oa.mo.gov/>

Child Care

Child Care Assistance

Missouri provides child care assistance for low-income families and for children who are receiving protective services, as well as programs which are aimed at improving the quality and availability of child care in Missouri.

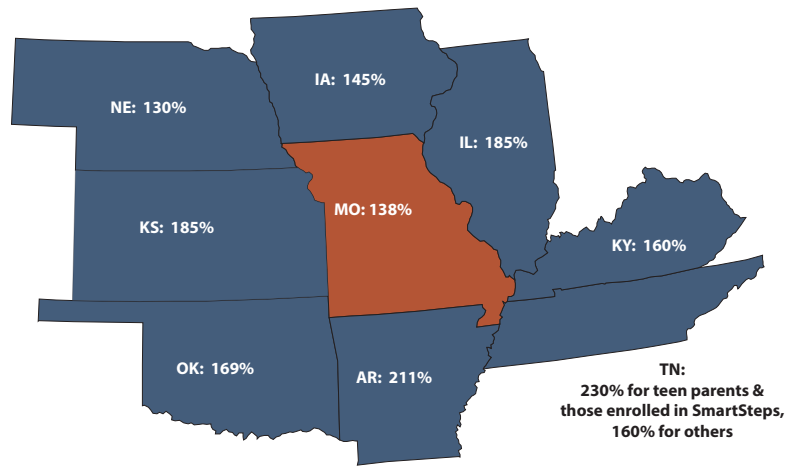
These programs target primarily low-income families and families with children under age three to ensure that these children have positive early child experiences both in and out of the home.

These programs help prepare children to enter school ready to succeed and to reduce the potential for child abuse and neglect.

Almost 34,500 children are projected to receive child care through this program each month in FY2020

Low-income Missourians are eligible for childcare assistance on a sliding fee scale if their income is below 138% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) - or less than \$2,400 per month for a single mother with two children.

Eligibility for Child Care Assistance in Missouri is Well Below the National Average of 180% FPL, Below Most Neighboring States



Program	Department Budget	Budget Section	FY20 GR	FY20 Federal	FY20 Other	FY20 TOTAL
Purchase of Child Care	DSS	11.385	\$37,004,053	\$171,709,058	\$7,574,500	\$216,287,611
Child Care Development Block Grants	DESE	2.045	\$0	\$500,000	\$0	\$500,000

Child Care Development Block Grants increase the availability and quality of early childhood programs in public schools and colleges/universities. These grants fund teacher training/professional development, program improvements, or can be used to increase the availability of child care in school-based settings to make child care more accessible for teen parents. The CCDBG is also used to supplement funding for child care assistance in Missouri.

Number of Children Served 2019–2020 (categories not mutually exclusive)		
Low Income Children: 342	Special Needs: 164	Child Care Assistance: 191

Early Childhood Programs

Missouri Preschool Program

The Missouri Preschool Program promotes high quality early childhood education programs for children who are one or two years from kindergarten entry.

- Grants are awarded to both school districts and private providers.
- Funding is also provided for Early Childhood program administration and assessment.

In the current year, 498 Missouri children will receive early education through the Missouri Preschool Program. Public schools are prohibited from collecting MPP funds if they are also reporting children under the foundation formula for Pre-K.

Program	Department Budget	Budget Section	FY20 GR	FY20 Federal	FY20 Other	FY20 TOTAL
Missouri Preschool Program	DESE	2.100	\$0	\$2,910,000		\$2,910,000

House Bill 1689:

(approved in the 2014 legislative session)³

- Allows partial funding for school-based preschools to be included in the calculation of the Foundation Formula to serve children in school districts that were unaccredited or provisionally accredited.
- Funding was implemented in the 2015-2016 school year and is limited to 4% of children receiving free and reduced lunch.
- Includes a provision to extend that preschool funding to all school districts in the year after the Foundation Formula reaches full funding levels.
- This provision was triggered in FY2019 following the full funding of the Foundation Formula in the FY2018 budget.

Footnote: SB586 (approved in the 2016 legislative session) reinstated a 5 percent cap on the growth in the State Adequacy Target (SAT) thereby reducing the amount of required funding under the Formula by about \$460 million.

Parents as Teachers

Missouri is the home of the internationally renowned home visiting program Parents as Teachers (PAT), which helps parents develop the skills to be their child's first teacher in the critical early years of life.

- PAT enhances school readiness for Missouri children.
- It also serves as a first line of detection of potential developmental delays or other health problems in young children.

43,479 families are expected to be served in the current year by Parents as Teachers in Missouri.

Program	Department Budget	Budget Section	FY20 GR	FY20 Federal	FY20 Other	FY20 TOTAL
Parents as Teachers (PAT)	DESE	2.015	\$16,058,000	\$0	\$5,000,000	\$21,058,000

PAT is available to all families in Missouri, with at least 75% of funds reserved for high-needs families.

The program provides:

- Parent education serving families with young children from birth through kindergarten
- Personal visits with a certified parent educator
- Group connections
- Developmental and health screenings
- Referral to community resources.

Parents as Teachers – Educator Support provides funding for initial curriculum training for beginning parent educators and other professional development opportunities related to the Parents as Teachers program.

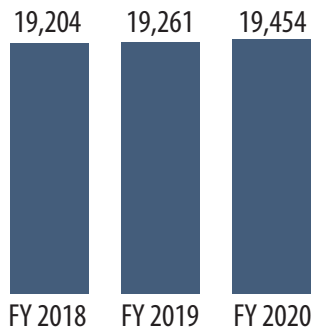
Program	Department Budget	Budget Section	FY20 GR	FY20 Federal	FY20 Other	FY20 TOTAL
PAT – Educator Support	DESE	2.045	\$192,254	\$0	\$0	\$192,254

Early Intervention / Special Education Services

Early Childhood Special Education

Missouri’s Early Childhood Special Education program is expected to serve 19,454 children in the current year. The program provides children with disabilities aged three and four with Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) and special education services through the Missouri Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) Program.

MO Children Served Through Early Childhood Special Education Annually



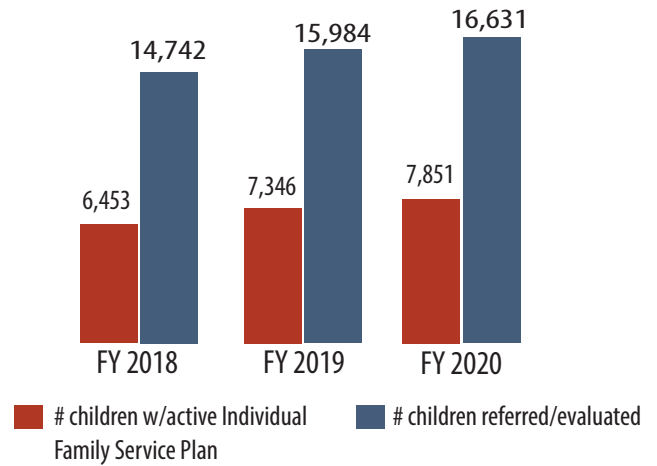
Missouri’s First Steps Program is the state’s Early Intervention System for infants and toddlers, birth to age three, who have delayed development or diagnosed conditions that are associated with developmental disabilities. The program will serve 16,631 children in the current year.

In FY2017, 90% of children who entered First Steps with skills below age expectation had substantially increased growth by the time they exited the program.

In FY 2017, 97% of children who entered ECSE with skills below age expectation had substantially increased acquisition and use of knowledge and skills by the time they exited the program.

Early Intervention Services / First Steps

MO Children Served By First Steps Early Intervention Program Annually



Program	Department Budget	Budget Section	FY20 GR	FY20 Federal	FY20 Other	FY20 TOTAL
Early Childhood Special Education*	DESE	2.015	\$158,554,219	\$0	\$36,013,040	\$194,567,259
First Steps Program	DESE	2.180	\$37,818,953	\$10,993,757	\$13,000,000	\$61,812,710

*Federal ECSE funds of approximately \$25m flow through the Special Education Core and thus are not reflected in appropriation.

Oversight

The Department of Health & Senior Services (DHSS) – Division of Regulation and Licensure ensures that child care providers are appropriately screened, trained, and licensed. Specific programs include:

The Family Care Safety Registry provides background screenings to employers and individuals or families who want to hire a caregiver for a child or disabled or senior adult. In FY2019, the Family Care Safety Registry will identify nearly 54,645 registrants with one or more negative background screening findings.

The Child Care Improvement Program provides funding for inclusion services to assist providers and families of children with special needs. These services include referrals, training for child care providers, and collaboration with providers to increase availability of special needs care.

The MPP Quality Assurance Report is a three-year pilot program that will develop a voluntary early learning quality assurance report to assess licensed and unlicensed early childhood programs in Missouri.

Program	Department Budget	Budget Section	FY20 GR	FY20 Federal	FY20 Other	FY20 TOTAL
Family Care Safety Registry	DHSS	10.900	\$773,709	\$197,399	\$0	\$971,108
Child Care Improvement Program	DHSS	10.905	\$0	\$436,675	\$0	\$436,675
MPP Quality Assurance Program	DESE	2.045	\$310,122	\$0	\$0	\$310,122

Appendix

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Missouri Preschool Program	DESE	2.100	\$0	\$2,910,000		\$2,910,000
Parents as Teachers (PAT)	DESE	2.015	\$16,058,000	\$0	\$5,000,000	\$21,058,000
Right From the Start	DESE	2.050	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
PAT - Educator Support	DESE	2.045	\$192,254	\$0	\$0	\$192,254
Child Development Associate Certificate Program	DESE	2.045	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Early Childhood Special Education	DESE	2.015	\$158,554,219	\$0	\$36,013,040	\$194,567,259
First Steps Program	DESE	2.180	\$37,818,953	\$10,993,757	\$13,000,000	\$61,812,710
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Notes

1. Reynolds, A. J., & Temple, J. A. (2008). Cost-effective early childhood development programs from preschool to third grade. *Annu. Rev. Clin. Psychol.*, 4, 109-139.
2. Reynolds, A. J., Temple, J. A., Ou, S. R., Arteaga, I. A., & White, B. A. (2011). School-based early childhood education and age-28 well-being: Effects by timing, dosage, and subgroups. *Science*, 333(6040), 360-364 and Campbell, F. A., Ramey, C. T., Pungello, E., Sparling, J., & Miller-Johnson, S. (2002). Early childhood education: Young adult outcomes from the Abecedarian Project. *Applied Developmental Science*, 6(1), 42-57.
3. House Bill 1689, sponsored by Representative Swan, was approved in 2014. The bill included a provision to allow school districts to include 3-5 year olds in the calculation of each school district's "average daily attendance," which is used to determine the amount of state funding that is allocated to each school district.