

MORE STATE AND FEDERAL INVESTMENT IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION IS A TOP PRIORITY FOR COLORADO VOTERS.

A new bipartisan poll from the First Five Years Fund shows that early childhood education is one of the top three priorities of Colorado voters.¹ **Voters strongly support a range of state investments in early childhood education, including providing voluntary coaching and education for new parents; expanding access to Colorado’s voluntary early learning classes throughout the state; and, increasing wages to attract and retain high-quality early education teachers.** Additionally, more than two-thirds support a federal plan to help states and local communities provide better early childhood education.

Quality early childhood education is a top priority issue along with improving education and controlling the cost of health care. 80% say making sure our children get a strong start in life through quality early childhood education is extremely or very important to them personally.

Improving the quality of public education

EXTREMELY/
VERY IMPORTANT

84%

Controlling the cost of health care

EXTREMELY/
VERY IMPORTANT

83%

Making sure children get a strong start in life through quality early childhood education

EXTREMELY/
VERY IMPORTANT

80%

Fixing the immigration system

EXTREMELY/
VERY IMPORTANT

63%

Reducing the tax burden on families

EXTREMELY/
VERY IMPORTANT

62%

Colorado voters sense a problem that only early childhood education can solve. 71% of voters say we should be doing more to ensure children begin kindergarten with the skills and knowledge they need. Only 22% say we are doing enough and virtually no one says we should be doing less (2%).

♀ 74%
WOMEN WITHOUT
KIDS

♂ 70%
MEN WITHOUT
KIDS

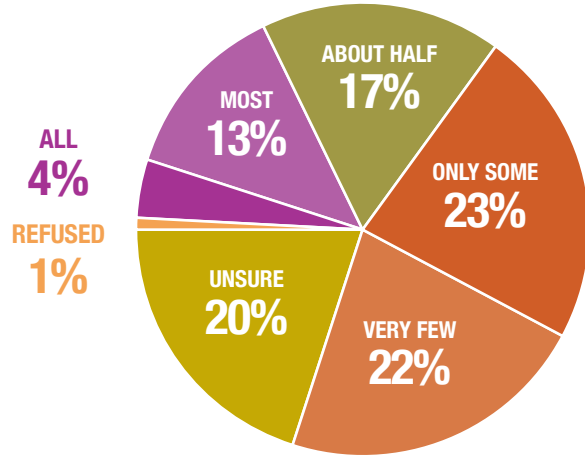
👨👩 80%
MOMS

👨👩 55%
DADS

Voters recognize that learning begins at birth. 68% of Colorado voters say birth through age five are the most critical years for developing a child’s capacity to learn.

¹ **Methodology:** Public Opinion Strategies (R) and Hart Research (D) conducted a telephone survey of N=500 voters in Colorado on both landline and cell phones. The survey was conducted July 21-24, 2016 and has an overall margin of error of +/- 4.38%. The sample was distributed proportionally throughout the state and is demographically representative of the electorate.

Voters throughout the state say there is a lack of affordable and quality early education programs. 62% of Colorado voters say that half or fewer early childhood programs in their area are both affordable and high-quality.



Colorado voters express strong support for a range of improvements in access and quality in early education.

86% of voters say the state should provide voluntary coaching and education for new parents to help them improve their child's health and help ensure they are ready to succeed in school.

An overwhelming majority want the state to provide more access to voluntary programs.

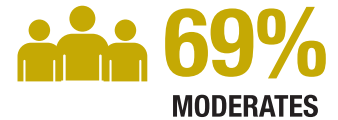
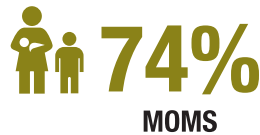
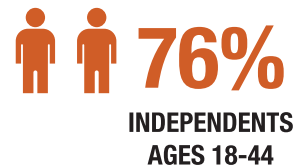
83% of voters say the state should provide more young children with the opportunity to participate in voluntary, early learning classes throughout the state, instead of limiting access to fewer than one-in-four children.

A vast majority of Colorado voters support wage increases for early childhood teachers.

81% of voters support providing tax incentives so that schools and child care centers can increase wages for early childhood educators in order to recruit and retain more highly qualified teachers.

There is overwhelming support—with little opposition—for a federal plan that helps states and local communities provide better access to quality early childhood education.

More than two-thirds of voters in the state support this plan: 69% favor and only 26% oppose. All regions in the state favor this federal plan: 62% in Colorado Springs, 77% in Denver, 70% in Eastern Plains, 69% in northern suburbs, 67% in south & west suburbs and 72% in the Western Slope support a federal investment. Majorities of key swing voter groups also favor investing more in early childhood education.



Quality early childhood education is essential for children and families.

Learn more at www.ffyf.org