



# Governor Ned Lamont

## Fact Sheet: 2025 Legislative Proposal

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### HOUSE BILL 6867

#### *AN ACT CREATING THE UNIVERSAL PRESCHOOL ENDOWMENT*

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### The Current Situation

Connecticut has made great strides in expanding access to child care over the past 5 years, adding more than 11,000 subsidized child care spaces. Yet challenges remain. The Governor convened a Blue Ribbon Panel of experts to develop a comprehensive plan to support economic and educational progress for our state by addressing child care challenges and opportunities for families and businesses in Connecticut:

- Not all children in Connecticut have access to high-quality preschool before kindergarten.
- Parents want their children ready for school but often can't afford high-quality preschool that aligns with work hours.
- Early care and education classrooms across the state are closed due to lack of staff, driven by low wages for teachers.
- District programming for preschoolers with special education needs often has limited hours, days, and locations.
- The current system is fragmented, making it challenging for families to navigate and access preschool and care.

Connecticut has an opportunity to make an investment in our future by assuring families have access to affordable preschool. Studies show that early childhood education has a high return on investment. It not only benefits the health, education, and development of young children, but also leads to increased earnings for families and a more reliable workforce for businesses.

### Governor Lamont's Solution



- The Universal Preschool Endowment is an investment in Connecticut families, the early childhood workforce, and Connecticut's future.
- Supports an early childhood system that works for children, families, child care centers, group child care homes, family child care homes, and public schools.
- The endowment will be funded with \$300 million from the FY 2025 surplus and then with the unappropriated surpluses in FY 2026 and thereafter.
- The Commissioner of Early Childhood may expend up to 10% of the balance of the endowment, on an annual basis, for the purposes of creating sufficient capacity for universal preschool.
- The proposed use of the endowment aims to expand affordable preschool options for families by:
  - Making preschool free for families making up to \$100,000 per year
  - Establishing a \$20 per day maximum for families making up to \$150,000
  - Creating 20,000 new or extended day preschool spaces by 2032
  - Lowering the cost for families enrolled in the 19,000 current subsidized preschool spaces by 2028
  - Being simple, easy to access, and flexible to meet family needs