Early Childhood Workforce Index 2016
SOUTH CAROLINA

IN SOUTH CAROLINA, there are 351,192 children age birth through five years; 67 percent of these children live in households where all available parents are currently working, and 31 percent of all South Carolina children are part of low-income families. It is widely agreed that the current early care and education system across states is woefully underfunded. The cost of services is out of reach for many working families, including those who earn middle-class wages. At the same time, large swaths of early childhood teachers — even those with college degrees — earn unlivable wages.

More than 10,380 members of the early childhood teaching workforce provide services to children in South Carolina.

Occupation	Percentile	Median wage
Surgeon	99th	≥ $90
Kindergarten teacher	70th	$24.59
Preschool teacher	15th	$11.84
Child care worker	2nd	$8.83

Selected Occupations Ranked by Earnings

- In 2015, the median wage for child care workers was $8.83, **a 6% decrease since 2010.**
- For preschool teachers, the median wage was $11.84, **a 3% increase since 2010.**

Early Childhood Workforce Policies		
Qualifications	BA for all pre-K teachers?	No
	At least CDA or vocational training for licensed providers?	No
QRIS and work environment	Paid time in professional development?	No
	Paid planning and/or preparation time?	No
	Salary schedule/benefits?	No
	Same for home providers?	No
Compensation strategies	Salary parity for pre-K teachers?	No
	Wage supplement?	No
Financial resources	State reported extra CCDBG spending?	No
	State applied for federal grant?	Yes
	Ratio of pre-K to K-12 spending over 50%?	No
Workforce data	Formal data collection mechanism?	Yes
	Includes compensation?	Unavailable
	Reports data publicly?	No
	Comprehensive?	Yes

Family & Income Support Policies		
Income supports and child care assistance	Refundable Earned Income Tax Credit?	No
	Higher than federal minimum wage, indexed for inflation?	No
	Child care assistance income eligibility set at 85% of state median income or above?	No
	Refundable child care tax credit?	No
Supports for health and well-being	Paid sick days law?	No
	Paid family leave law?	No
	Expanded Medicaid eligibility?	No

The *Early Childhood Workforce Index* provides a composite appraisal of the early childhood workforce in each state focused on: Earnings and Economic Security; Early Childhood Workforce Policies; and Family and Income Support Policies. The full 2016 Index includes a discussion and rationale for each category and spotlights successful and promising practices in selected states. To see how South Carolina compares to other states, visit our interactive state-by-state database. For an overview of data sources for the indicators listed above, see our guide to indicators.