



Early Childhood Workforce Index 2018 COLORADO

406,528
Children age 0-5



18,670*
Members of the
early childhood
teaching workforce

IN COLORADO, 63 percent of children live in households where all available parents are currently working, and 22 percent of all Colorado 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 18,670 members of the early childhood teaching workforce provide services to children in Colorado.

Occupation	Median wage
Child care worker	\$12.60
Preschool teacher	\$13.88
Center director	\$22.73
Kindergarten teacher	\$27.68
Elementary teacher	\$28.71
All workers	\$19.66

Earnings by Occupation

- In 2017 the median wage for child care workers was \$12.60, **a 7% increase since 2015.**
- For preschool teachers the median wage was \$13.88, **a 3% increase since 2015.**
- For preschool or child care center directors, the median wage was \$22.73, **a 6% increase since 2015.**

*Total includes the following occupations as defined by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Employment Statistics (OES): "child care workers," "preschool teachers, excluding special education," "preschool teachers, special education," "education administrators: preschool/child care center programs". These data do not include the self-employed, although home-based child care assistants, who are employees, are likely included in the "child care worker" category. Due to the limited data available across states in the OES, state-based surveys or registries may provide more comprehensive estimates of the ECE workforce.



Early Childhood Workforce Policies

Qualifications & educational supports: Edging Forward	Pre-K	BA minimum for lead teacher?	No
		CDA/equivalent minimum for assistant teacher?	No
	Licensed centers	BA minimum for director?	No
		BA minimum for lead teacher?	No
		CDA/equivalent minimum for assistant teacher?	No
	Licensed homes	BA minimum for lead teacher?	No
		CDA/equivalent minimum for assistant teacher?	No
	Scholarships to support educational pathways	BA?	Yes
		AA?	Yes
		CDA or equivalent?	Yes
Collects data on scholarship recipients?		Yes	
Work environments: Edging Forward	Centers	Paid time in professional development?	Yes
		Paid planning and/or preparation time?	Yes
		Salary schedule/benefits?	Yes
	Homes	Paid time in professional development?	No
		Paid planning and/or preparation time?	No
		Salary schedule/benefits?	No
Compensation & financial relief strategies: Stalled		Salary parity for publicly funded pre-K teachers?	No parity
		Compensation standards required?	No
		Compensation guidelines or plans to develop?	Yes (plans only)
		Earmarks for salaries in public funding?	No
		Financial relief: stipend or tax credit?	No
		Financial relief: bonus?	Yes

Early Childhood Workforce Policies

Financial resources: Edging Forward		State reported extra CCDBG spending?	Yes
		Ratio of per-child pre-K to K-12 spending over 50%?	No
Workforce data: Making Headway	Registry	Inclusive of all licensed settings?	Other
		Collects wage data?	Yes
		Collects benefits data?	No
		Collects race/ethnicity data?	Yes
		Reports data publicly?	Yes
	Survey	Inclusive of all licensed settings?	Licensed +
		Collects wage data?	Yes
		Collects benefits data?	Yes
		Collects race/ethnicity data?	Yes
		Reports data publicly?	Yes

Family & Income Support Policies

Income supports: Making headway		Refundable Earned Income Tax Credit?	Yes
		Higher than federal minimum wage, indexed for inflation?	Yes
		Refundable child care tax credit?	Yes
Supports for health and well-being: Stalled		Paid sick days law?	No
		Paid family leave law?	No
		Expanded Medicaid eligibility?	Yes

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 2018 Index](#) includes a discussion and rationale for each category and spotlights successful and promising practices in selected states.
- To see how Colorado 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](#).

