



GOVERNOR GRETCHEN WHITMER

BUILDING A SOLID FOUNDATION FOR YOUNG MICHIGANDERS

Every family in Michigan deserves access to safe, quality, and affordable child care that meets their needs. Governor Whitmer has put families and children first by making record investments in our children's earliest years. These investments put kids on a path to success and strengthen our economy by helping parents return to work knowing their children are safe and learning.

Lowered the cost of child care for Michigan families

- [Expanded](#) access to free PreK for All for every four-year-old so every kid can arrive at kindergarten ready to thrive. [Announced record](#) PreK enrollment with over 55,000 children served. That's more than double the number of four-year-olds enrolled in free PreK in 2021.
- [Invested over](#) \$65M in Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) Start Up Grants to help open or expand more than 2,300 PreK classrooms.
- [Invested another \\$96.1M](#) to continue expanding free PreK for All allowing Michigan to serve an estimated 68,000 children, saving families \$14,000 per year.
- [Invested](#) \$25 million to continue the Strong Beginnings preschool program for 3-year-olds and continued expanding access to [children in 31 ISDs](#).
- Launched the [Tri-Share program](#) splitting cost of child care between families, employers, and the state. Participation has grown [100 percent](#). [More than 300 employers participate](#), and [families have saved \\$14 million](#) since the program's launch. Signed Tri-Share into state law, making it permanent.
- [Enacted paid parental leave](#) of up to 12 weeks for state employees.

Expanded access to quality care and strengthened child care businesses

- [Achieved](#) an ambitious goal to open 1,000 more child care programs by the end of 2024 through [Caring for Mi Future](#)—a \$100 million strategy.
- [Signed](#) a record \$1.4 billion in child care funding supporting child care businesses and expanding access to affordable child care for [150,000 more children](#). Now, a family of four earning up to \$55,500 is eligible for free or low-cost child care.
- Continued to align state child care scholarship [payment practices](#) with private pay helping more families access care and supporting strong child care businesses.
- Invested \$700 million through the [Child Care Stabilization Grant](#) program to provide grants to [nearly 6,000](#) local child care businesses.
- Secured \$30 million to recruit and retain skilled [child care professionals and early educators](#) by improving compensation and trying out new ways to boost recruitment. Continued this critical work with an additional [\\$21 million](#) investment.
- Signed a [bipartisan bill package](#) expanding access to care for families by keeping child care sites open through common-sense reforms.
- [Signed](#) a bipartisan bill to help childcare centers keep students and staff members safe in the event of shootings or other threat to safety.
- Helped keep child care center students and staff members safe by [signing legislation](#) that allowed the use of temporary door locking devices in emergency situations.
- [Launched](#) Nurture Benefits Pilot Program to offer health and retirement benefits to early educators.
- Created the state's first Early Childhood Fund to support young children and families with an initial [\\$5 million](#) investment.