A look at state pre-K funding for the 2014-15 fiscal year

Once considered a strategy to support working parents with child care needs, the majority of states now view access to high-quality preschool programs as a critical long-term economic investment in the future workforce. For the third year in a row both Republican and Democratic policymakers are making significant investments in state-funded pre-K programs.

State Pre-K Funding: 2014-15 fiscal year, a new ECS analysis of 2014-15 appropriations by the 50 states, found that 28 states plus the District of Columbia increased their investments in pre-K, and state investments in pre-K rose by 12 percent nationally. California led the nation with a 79 percent funding increase, to a total of $397,500,000.

"This is clearly a bipartisan issue," said Bruce Atchison, director of ECS' Early Learning Institute. "As we work closely with policymakers across the U.S. we are seeing more and more of a focus on investing in early childhood education. It is promising to see continued funding increases in so many programs and states this year."

In this report, you will find:
- A national overview of state funding for pre-K.
- A state-by-state breakdown of total pre-K funding, and funding by program.
- Highlights of 2014 measures taken by four states: California, Hawaii, Indiana and Maryland.

Other ECS resources for early learning:
- Third-grade reading policies: Spelling it out -- policies directed at ensuring early reading success (December 2014)
- Initiatives from Preschool to Third Grade: A policymaker’s guide (October 2014)
- The Progress of Education Reform: Science in the Early Years (June 2014)
- Kindergarten Policy Database 2014
- State Pre-K Funding -- 2013-14 Fiscal Year

For questions, contact ECS Director of Communications Amy Skinner at askinner@ecs.org or (303) 299.3609.

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