

# TRENDING TOPICS in Education in 2020



## EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

State legislative activity on early childhood education has focused on [investments](#) to improve access and [quality](#), as well as [alignment](#) across early childhood government agencies. Policymakers are also considering [social and emotional learning](#) and [literacy development](#) in the early years.

## K-12 FUNDING

State legislative activity in K-12 funding has focused largely on modifying existing [revenue](#) sources and equitably allocating resources to [high-need student populations](#). Policymakers have also examined restructuring how states allocate funds to districts for [school facility](#) improvements.

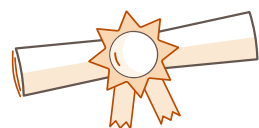


## SCHOOL CLIMATE

State legislative activity on school climate issues has spanned a variety of topics, from physical or [building safety](#) and [emergency preparedness](#) to [student mental health supports](#) and [fair disciplinary systems](#). Policymakers are also inquiring about the development of [culturally responsive curricula](#).

## TEACHING

Issues around teaching capture a significant amount of state legislative activity each year. As teacher shortages garner national attention, policymakers are especially focused on teacher [recruitment and retention](#), as well as [certification and licensure](#), [professional development](#), and [compensation](#).



## COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY

While [free college](#) continues to capture policymaker attention, there has also been state legislative activity around mandating [FAFSA completion](#) for high school graduation, balancing demand with available aid, and providing [financial support for near-completers](#) to get a college degree.

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

State legislative activity has focused on developing explicit connections between [education and workforce](#). Policymakers are examining ways to facilitate [cross-sector collaboration](#) to improve the quality and outcomes of programs, as well as the exchange of [data](#) between sectors.

