

Universal Pre-K

THREE

Things We Love Things That Make Us Nervous

Universal Preschool for all 3 and 4 year olds.

Childcare becoming more accessible to parents earlier helps to make the massive benefits of early childhood education available for young children earlier can help massively close the million word gap. Preschool is shown to be the most beneficial for low-income families, and universal access can help lower lifelong educational gaps.

Protecting vulnerable families. Capping pre-preschool childcare costs at 7 percent of a parent's income allows our youngest, most vulnerable members of society to have access to childcare and lower the burdens on parents.

Higher enrollment opportunities for Black children. Black children are 20 percent less likely to be enrolled in preschool compared to their white peers. When the barriers for entry are lowered, the more opportunities for Black children to receive the same educational access as their white peers.

States will individually determine how Universal Preschool is implemented.

While the case can be made for the importance of allowing states to determine how the funds are used, this does mean there will be varying standards for how universal preschool is implemented from state to state. This can lead to educational standards in elementary school being reflected in preschool, which may not help lower educational gaps.

What will happen to current childcare centers?

Since many states do not have programs in place currently, what will happen to the early education childcare centers that do serve 3- and 4-year olds? Black children are already less likely to have access to preschool, how will implementation affect their access to childcare before then?

Structural racism is affecting more Black and brown children earlier.

Black children are more likely to be suspended and expelled compared to their white peers. Earlier access to state-funded programs potentially put more children of color at risk for expulsion from early childhood programs.



Join the conversation and demand better for and with students - visit www.letachild.org and get involved.

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