

Advancing Michigan’s PreK System through Growth and Opportunity

Michigan has demonstrated a strong commitment to expanding reliable early education for working families and strengthening the foundation of long-term academic and economic growth — from Caring for MI Future’s achievement of opening or expanding 1,000 child care businesses by 2024 to Pre-K for All’s goal of making the state one of the few in the nation to offer universal pre-K by 2027.

While meaningful progress has been made, Michigan has an important opportunity to ensure the long-term strength and sustainability of its child care system. As free preschool expands and wages rise, thoughtful planning and ongoing collaboration can help support home-based providers, retain infant and toddler caregivers, and strengthen the overall workforce. By closely monitoring implementation and making data-informed adjustments, the state can safeguard provider stability, reinforce workforce capacity, and preserve a broad range of high-quality options for families.



In summary, **Michigan has exceeded its expansion goals and moved decisively toward universal pre-K by 2027.**

Ongoing analysis shows Michigan’s child care capacity has not only remained stable since 2022, but grown. Family and group-home providers continue to account for about 5% of all licensed slots, maintaining an important part of the state’s mixed-delivery system. At the same time, net growth from newly opened or expanded providers continues to trend upward — **expanding overall supply and preserving a range of options that support parental choice.**

Recent initiatives from MiLEAP focus on strengthening the early childhood workforce by improving compensation (Wages Initiative, Health Insurance & Benefits), building the workforce pipeline (Apprenticeships, T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® MICHIGAN Scholarships) and expanding professional development opportunities (Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation). The state is also working to improve early childhood literacy through Governor Whitmer’s Every Child Reads initiative.

Sustained investment in workforce development, provider stability, and coordinated data monitoring will be critical to ensuring this rapid growth delivers lasting gains in access, quality, and outcomes — especially as Michigan transitions to universal pre-K for all.

