

2017 Voter Poll: Early Learning

Early learning is Washington state's most unifying issue

Thrive regularly checks in with Washington voters to find out what they know about early learning and the state's efforts to give young children the best start in life possible. **Here are highlights from our most recent poll:**

WA voters recognize early years as essential

93% of voters agree

The 'first five years' of a child's life have a significant impact on future school & life success

Strongly Agree	79%
Somewhat Agree	14%
Somewhat Disagree	4%
Strongly Disagree	3%

Strongly Agree Somewhat Agree
Somewhat Disagree Strongly Disagree

Voters that agree include...

- 92% of **All Voters**
94% of **Likely Voters**
- 94% of **Females**
91% of **Males**
- 95% of **HS or Less**
92% of **Some College**
93% of **College Grads**
- 90% of **Eastern WA**
95% of **Western WA**
- 90% of **Age 18-34**
93% of **Age 35-54**
98% of **Age 55+**
- 90% of **Republicans**
95% of **Democrats**
96% of **Independents**

Early learning is an actionable priority for WA

Quality Pre-K ranks highly among voters' most urgent priorities

Making sure children ages birth to 5 have affordable, high-quality child care and preschool was a top-tier issue for voters (27% "urgent" priority), along with improving K-12 education (28%) and improving access to health care (28%)

Improve the quality of our public K-12 education	28%
Improve access to quality health care	28%
Ensure children have affordable/quality child care & preschool	27%
Increase jobs and economic growth	23%
Provide quality higher education	22%
Protect the environment	21%
Improve and fix state roads and highways	19%
Increase public safety	18%
Fund human and social services	14%

■ Urgent

And most voters want more state action to support early learners

A majority of WA voters believe the state should do more to ensure children are ready for kindergarten

Should do more	55%
Already does enough	33%
Don't know	7%
Should do less	5%

Should do more Should do less
Already does enough Don't know

Nearly 9 out of 10 WA voters agree

Our state-funded preschool program for 3- and 4-year-olds needs more state investment

Voter support is high for key state early learning efforts:

Between 2014 and 2016, voter support for these efforts grew between 5 and 12 percentage points



Home Visiting



Affordable Child Care



Infant & Toddler Programs



Pre-K