

Early Learning Consortium

State Investments in Early Learning

During the Education Appropriations Subcommittee held on February 11, 2015, Representative Fresen requested information on other state investments in early learning and its impact on reading scores.

As part of this exercise various comparison data points were pulled to be able to give a complete picture of the complexities of the question.

- Utilizing NAEP data filtered by Free and Reduced Lunch Florida's 4th grade scores are the highest in the country but are still below the national average.
- Based on information from the Foundation for Excellence in Education, Florida has made strategic policy changes and investments in interventions for its Kindergarten -3rd graders since 2002. These interventions have been in place more than a decade before any other states began passing and enacting similar policies.
- 2013 Federal Payment Tables show that Florida has among the lowest subsidized child care payment rates in the nation. Specifically the 1st lowest in infant rates and 2nd lowest in toddler and preschool rates among the top tier performing states on the NAEP when looking at Free and Reduced Lunch scores.

Given that Florida is perfectly poised to capitalize on the momentum that has made it successful in attaining the best 4th grade reading scores in the nation it can further close the achievement gap by focusing on strategic early learning investments for Florida's School Readiness population. There are many states that have implemented innovative elements of a strong early learning system. There are no exact comparisons to Florida, but there are innovative examples of policies for early learning programs to incentivize and sustain quality to improve services for low-income children. In looking at the data there have been other states that have invested in early learning as outlined below that have also allowed them to have reading success.

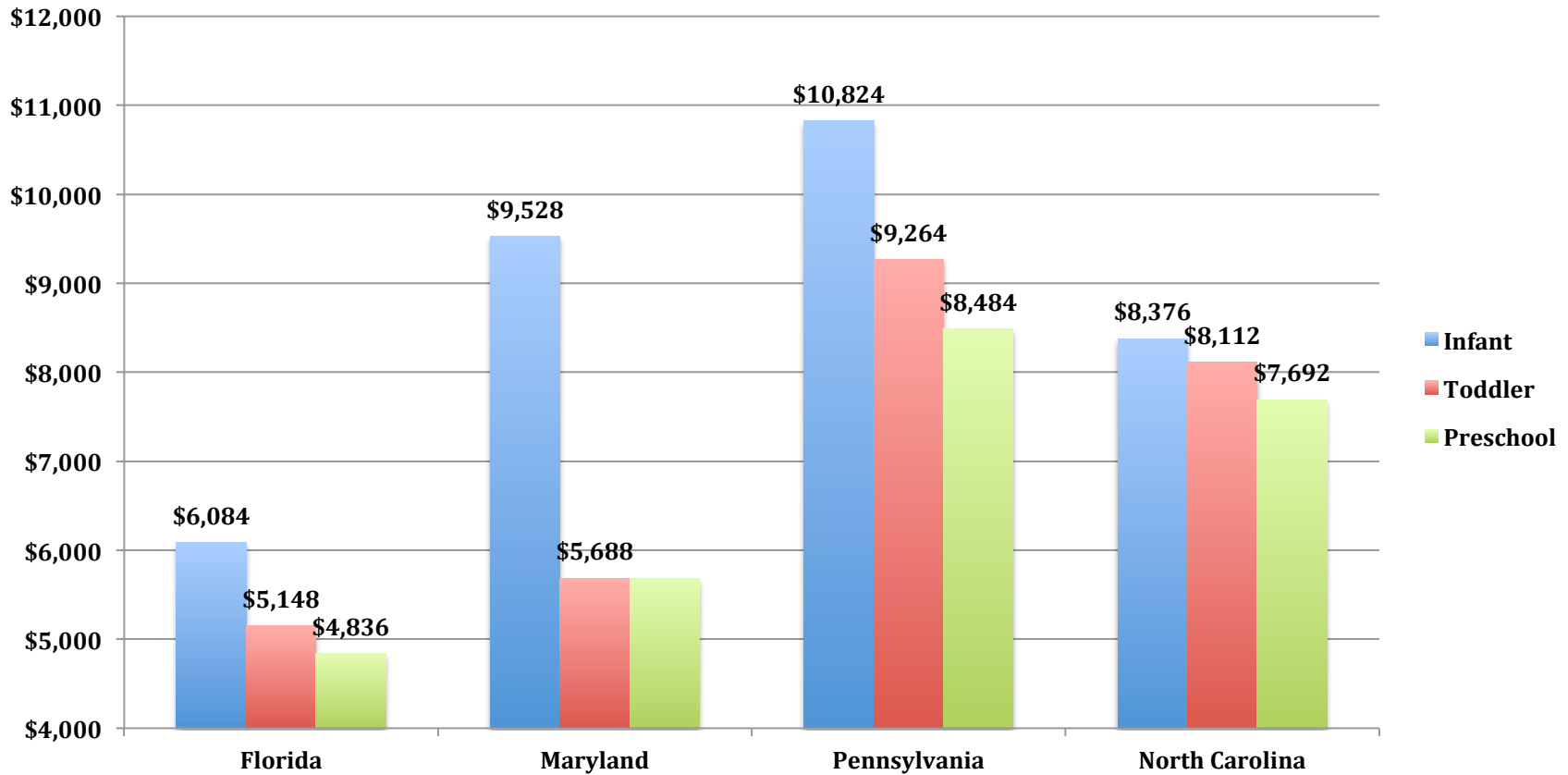
- **Maryland** assesses programs on tiers with 1-5 levels. Maryland does not allow centers or family child care homes at tier 1 and 2 star to serve children who receive child care subsidies. Tiers 3-5 get graduated payments depending upon the age of the child, the type of care, and the tier of the program; payment increases range from 10-44% over the standard rate. Maryland also provides additional funding for families to offset the co-pay, which increase based on star level, to encourage families to select higher quality programs.
- **Pennsylvania** has implemented pays more per day for programs that meet higher quality standards. This ranges from \$.35 more per day for full time care in a Star 1 site up to \$5.00 more per day for full time care in a Star 5 site.

Programs also have support from regional entities that support quality improvement.

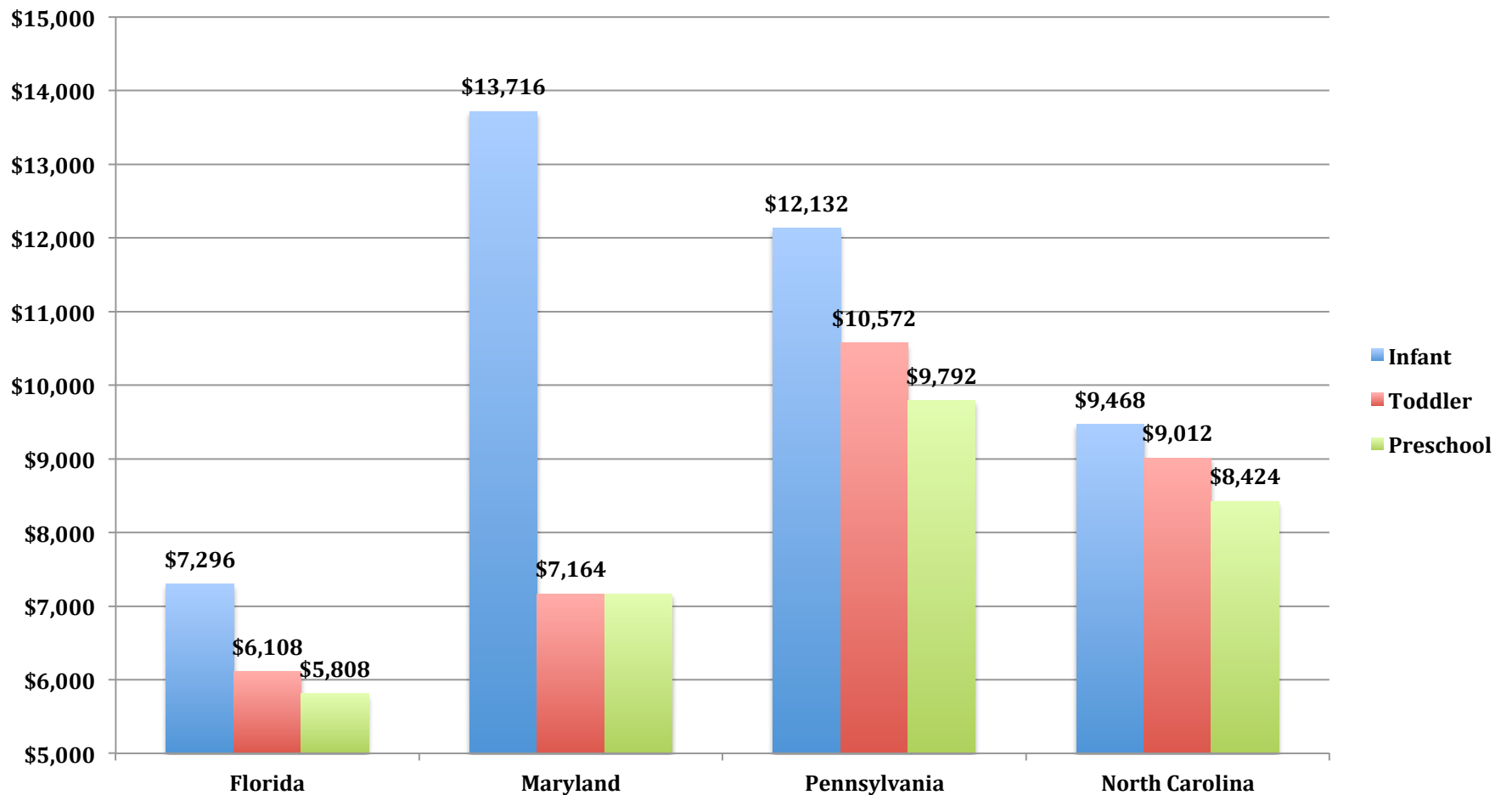
- **North Carolina** only allows higher quality sites to serve subsidized children. The state provides higher reimbursement rates to higher quality programs and also incentivizes parents to select higher quality programs by increasingly offsetting co-pays based on the quality of program selected. As a result, over 75% of children who receive subsidies and over 90% of children with special needs are in 4 and 5 star programs. Local partnerships provide quality improvement support to assist centers and family child care programs to improve program quality.

By understanding language acquisition and executive functioning as a foundation for future academic success and reading proficiency these states have built systems defining quality benchmarks tied to industry standards to help ensure that their subsidized child care population have access to quality early childhood programs. Through continued strategic investments in early learning, Florida can be the first state in the nation to have a strong birth-8 early education continuum and lead the nation in closing the achievement gap.

Base Child Care Rates



Highest Child Care Rates Based on Quality Investments



Top Tier
NAEP Scores/ Payment Rates/ K-3 Interventions

NAEP State	Free & Reduced				2013 Federal Child Care Tables			K-3rd Intervention	Date
	All Students	Eligible	Not Eligible	Difference	Infant Rate	Toddler Rate	Preschool Rate		
Georgia	222	211	239	-28	602	559	494	Screening, Progress Monitoring, parent notifications, and Improvement Plans and 3rd Grade Retention	2002
Missouri	222	211	236	-25	624	364	364		
New York	224	211	238	-26	1430	1105	940	Screening, Progress Monitoring, parent notifications, and Improvement Plans	
North Carolina	222	211	237	-26	698	676	641	K-3 Interventions	2012
Pennsylvania	226	211	239	-27	902	772	707		
West Virginia	215	211	225	-14	560	480	460	3rd Grade summer school or after hour participation	
Montana	223	212	233	-21	729	637	637		
New Jersey	229	212	241	-29	695	573	573		
Kentucky	224	213	237	-23	520	520	455	Screening, Progress Monitoring and Improvement Plans	2012
Massachusetts	232	213	245	-31	1182	795	795		
North Dakota	224	213	230	-17	663	600	565	Screening in grades K, 2,3 and Intervention after school and summer	
Vermont	228	213	239	-26	594	578	562		
Maine	225	214	234	-20	975	932	810		
Delaware	226	215	238	-23	708	574	574	K-3 Interventions	No Date
Indiana	225	215	237	-22	945	815	693	K-3 Interventions	2010
Wyoming	226	215	233	-18	675	531	521	K-3 Screener and progress monitoring	
Maryland	232	216	242	-27	794	474	474	3rd Grade Retention Policies	
New Hampshire	232	216	238	-22	874	828	737		
Florida	227	218	242	-24	507	429	403	K-3 Interventions	2002

State	Infants (11 months)		Toddler (35 months)		Preschool (59 months)		Before and After Care School Age (84 months)	
	Base Rate	Highest Rate	Base Rate	Highest Rate	Base Rate	Highest Rate	Base Rate	Highest Rate
Alabama	481	481	442	442	442	442	204	204
Alaska	850	850	800	800	650	650	375	375
Arizona	654	720	576	634	516	567	347	381
Arkansas	552	552	531	531	457	457	324	324
California	1029	1029	744	744	744	744	386	386
Colorado	910	1148	672	888	672	888	368	498
Connecticut	976	1025	976	1025	770	808	460	483
DC	1014	1356	992	1267	633	910	265	416
Delaware	708	708	574	574	574	574	275	275
Florida	507	608	429	515	403	484	273	328
Georgia	602	663	559	615	494	543	282	310
Hawaii	1395	1395	675	710	675	710	155	155
Idaho	594	594	492	492	492	492	151	151
Illinois	1007	1007	851	851	709	709	354	354
Indiana	945	1040	815	897	693	763	377	416
Iowa	727	727	586	586	586	586	264	264
Kansas	588	588	395	395	395	395	197	197
Kentucky	520	520	520	520	455	455	282	282
Louisiana	407	407	407	407	385	385	193	193
Maine	975	975	932	932	810	810	422	422
Maryland	794	1143	474	597	474	597	316	398
Massachusetts	1182	1217	795	1080	795	795	354	354
Michigan	650	650	433	433	433	433	217	217
Minnesota	1125	1294	838	964	838	964	638	733
Mississippi	339	375	326	357	312	339	183	201
Missouri	624	748	364	437	364	437	236	283
Montana	729	729	637	637	637	637	477	477
Nebraska	845	910	780	845	731	845	433	520
Nevada	672	672	607	607	498	498	206	206
New Hampshire	874	874	828	828	737	737	368	368

State	Infants (11 months)		Toddler (35 months)		Preschool (59 months)		Before and After Care School Age (84 months)	
	Base Rate	Highest Rate	Base Rate	Highest Rate	Base Rate	Highest Rate	Base Rate	Highest Rate
New Jersey	695	730	573	604	573	604	287	302
New Mexico	521	671	471	621	440	590	293	405
New York	1430	1430	1105	1105	940	940	542	542
North Carolina	698	789	676	751	641	702	420	445
North Dakota	663	663	600	600	565	565	300	300
Ohio	713	892	652	815	570	713	253	317
Oklahoma	336	758	292	601	292	487	173	303
Oregon	900	900	894	894	705	705	524	524
Pennsylvania	902	1011	772	881	707	816	494	523
Rhode Island	815	815	815	815	680	680	308	308
South Carolina	455	650	455	650	390	624	212	303
South Dakota	650	650	650	650	572	572	260	260
Tennessee	568	679	426	512	426	512	215	258
Texas	713	749	586	615	508	533	297	312
Utah	620	620	525	525	480	480	396	396
Vermont	594	832	578	809	562	786	300	419
Virginia	1213	1213	1018	1018	1018	1018	650	650
Washington	996	996	698	698	698	698	428	428
West Virginia	560	640	480	560	460	540	190	230
Wisconsin	948	1247	817	1075	735	968	409	538
Wyoming	675	675	531	531	521	521	336	336

Florida 6th & 7th with Gold Seal lowest in country including DC in infant payments

Florida 6th & 8th with Gold Seal lowest in country including DC in toddler payments

Florida 7th & 9th in country including DC in Preschool payments

Florida 18th & 24th in country including DC in School-age payments

K-3 Reading Policy State by State

States w/ K-3 Reading Law and/or Rule	Assessment, Instruction, and Intervention						Retention and Intensive Intervention				Reading Plans
	Screener/ Identify students w/ a reading deficiency K-3	Monitor progress of students with a reading deficiency K-3	Parent Notification for students identified w/ a reading deficiency	Improvement Plan and/or interventions for students w/ a reading deficiency	Home Reading Strategies/ Program	Intervention during summer or after school hours	Initial retention determined based on local/state assessments	Retention required at 3 rd grade	Exemptions - performance and status based	Retention with intervention	State, district, or school wide Reading Plans based on SBRR
FL (2002)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	State	✓	✓	✓	✓
IN (2010)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	State	✓	Status only	✓	K-5 Reading Plans
OK (2011)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	State	✓ 2014-2015 committee can make retention decision - must be unanimous	✓	✓	K-3 Reading Plans
NC (2012)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	State	✓	✓	✓	
OH (2012)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	State	✓	✓	✓	
MS (2013)	✓	Retained 3 rd graders	✓	✓	✓	District decision	State	✓	✓	✓	
SC (2014)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	State	✓ Parent may appeal to Supt. in writing with compelling evidence for promotion within 2 weeks of retention notification	✓	✓	PreK-12 Reading Plans
AZ (2010)	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	State	✓	Status only	✓	
CO (2012)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	State and Local	Joint school & parent decision w/ final decision made by Supt.	Status only	✓	

States w/ K-3 Reading Law and/or Rule	Assessment, Instruction, and Intervention						Retention and Intensive Intervention				Reading Plans
	Screener/ Identify students w/ a reading deficiency K-3	Monitor progress of students with a reading deficiency K-3	Parent Notification for students identified w/ a reading deficiency	Improvement Plan and/or interventions for students w/ a reading deficiency	Home Reading Strategies/ Program	Intervention during summer or after school hours	Initial retention determined based on local/state assessments	Retention required at 3 rd grade	Exemptions - performance and status based	Retention with intervention	State, district, or school wide Reading Plans based on SBRR
WA (2013)	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	State	Must receive intervention services; grade placement is joint parent & school decision	Status only	Interventions for third graders scoring below basic; retention not required	✓
IA (2012)	✓		✓	✓		✓	Local or State	Either attend summer school for promotion or be retained	✓		
VA (2013)	✓	✓	✓ For third grade students deficient in reading	✓		✓		No retention requirement; must receive intervention services prior to promotion			
NM (2012)	✓	Grades K-1	✓	✓		✓		Not specific to reading - Grades 1-3 students not proficient; parents can refuse 1 st retention, but student failing to become proficient the next year must be retained	Retention decisions for students with disabilities is made in accordance with the provisions of the IEP		K-3 Reading Plans for Reads to Lead! Grantees only
MN (2010)	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓					✓
UT (2010)	✓		✓	✓		✓					
DE	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	State	✓	✓		

States w/ K-3 Reading Law and/or Rule	Assessment, Instruction, and Intervention						Retention and Intensive Intervention				Reading Plans
	Screener/ Identify students w/ a reading deficiency K-3	Monitor progress of students with a reading deficiency K-3	Parent Notification for students identified w/ a reading deficiency	Improvement Plan and/or interventions for students w/ a reading deficiency	Home Reading Strategies/ Program	Intervention during summer or after school hours	Initial retention determined based on local/state assessments	Retention required at 3 rd grade	Exemptions - performance - and status based	Retention with intervention	State, district, or school wide Reading Plans based on SBRR
TX	Grades K-2	✓	✓	✓		✓	State	3 attempts to pass assessment; parent may appeal, then placement committee decision to promote - must be unanimous		✓	
GA (2002)	✓		✓	✓			State	2 attempts to pass assessment; parent may appeal, then placement committee or IEP team decision to promote - must be unanimous		✓	
MO	✓		✓	✓		✓	Local	Retention required at grade 4 for students below grade level in grade 3 and still below grade level at end of 4 th grade summer school	Status only		

States w/ K-3 Reading Law and/or Rule	Assessment, Instruction, and Intervention						Retention and Intensive Intervention				Reading Plans
	Screener/ Identify students w/ a reading deficiency K-3	Monitor progress of students with a reading deficiency K-3	Parent Notification for students identified w/ a reading deficiency	Improvement Plan and/or interventions for students w/ a reading deficiency	Home Reading Strategies/ Program	Intervention during summer or after school hours	Initial retention determined based on local/state assessments	Retention required at 3 rd grade	Exemptions - performance and status based	Retention with intervention	State, district, or school wide Reading Plans based on SBRR
CA	Grades 2-3		✓	✓		✓		Retention required for any student not proficient in reading, ELA, or Math, with emphasis on reading (not specific to grade 3)	Teacher recommends that retention is not appropriate; Rec. includes intervention necessary to assist the student to attain acceptable achievement in the next grade		
DC (2012)	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓					
NY	✓	✓	✓	✓							
ID	✓			✓		✓					✓
AR	✓		✓	✓							
WY	✓	✓		✓							Schools not meeting the 85% proficiency goal for K-3 students must develop a school improvement plan
CT (2012)	✓	✓		Pilot							✓
WI (2012)	✓		Kindergarten only	✓							
KY (2012)	✓	✓		✓							
MD							Local and State	Either enroll in an intervention program or be retained	Status only		
TN (2012)	Pilot Kindergarten Screener							✓			

States w/ K-3 Reading Law and/or Rule	Assessment, Instruction, and Intervention						Retention and Intensive Intervention				Reading Plans
	Screener/ Identify students w/ a reading deficiency K-3	Monitor progress of students with a reading deficiency K-3	Parent Notification for students identified w/ a reading deficiency	Improvement Plan and/or interventions for students w/ a reading deficiency	Home Reading Strategies/ Program	Intervention during summer or after school hours	Initial retention determined based on local/state assessments	Retention required at 3 rd grade	Exemptions - performance and status based	Retention with intervention	State, district, or school wide Reading Plans based on SBRR
WV						3 rd grade students only		Student may be required to attend summer school for promotion - teacher decision (based on reading, LA, and/or math)			
LA	✓			✓							
RI	✓			✓							
ND	Kindergarten & grades 2-3					✓					

Key

- **SBRR** – scientifically-based reading research
- **Performance-based exemptions** – exemptions based on performance on an alternative standardized reading assessment or test-based portfolio
- **Status-based exemptions** – exemptions for students with disabilities, English Language Learners (ELLs), or students who have been previously retained