



A Common Start. A Stronger Future.

In order to provide children with an equal start in life, strengthen our economy in a way that also reduces racial, gender, and income inequality in our state, and meet the needs of working parents and the 21st century workforce; Massachusetts families need affordable, accessible, high-quality early education and child care.

About the Common Start Coalition

We are a statewide partnership of organizations, providers, parents, early educators, and advocates working together to make high-quality early education and child care affordable and accessible to all MA families. Our diverse coalition includes community, faith-based, labor, business, and early education and child care organizations, as well as early educators, parents, individuals, and direct service organizations.



Common Start Coalition's Key Principles

- Ensure that all young children in Massachusetts can access affordable, high-quality early education and care.
- Utilize the existing mixed-delivery system of public and licensed private providers, including centers and family child care providers.
- Ensure availability of child care options beyond the traditional 9-5 workday.
- Use sliding-scale fees, with no family paying more than 7% of their income for child care.
- Prioritize children from low-income families, with regards to phase-in and enrollment.
- Reimburse providers for the actual cost of providing high-quality child care.
- Invest in the early education and care workforce pipeline through equitable compensation, professional development, and recruitment and retention efforts.
- New public (state) funding will be needed to achieve these goals.

To learn more, visit commonstartma.org

Recapping the 2021-2022 Legislative Session


Since 2019, the Common Start Coalition has been steadily building our broad-based coalition to advocate for affordable, accessible, high-quality early education and child care. We've made enormous strides in raising awareness of the need for action to fix the child care crisis. This past session, we developed a comprehensive legislative framework that would help children, families, educators, providers, and businesses, and signed up a majority of legislators as cosponsors. Our vision was reflected in a major report written by the state's Early Education and Care Economic Review Commission and in legislation approved by the Legislature's Education Committee!

The State Senate passed their version of the Education Committee bill unanimously, and in the State House of Representatives, a majority of State Representatives have cosponsored or are supportive of the bill. In addition, the state budget made a major down payment on our vision with more than \$500 million in new early education funding, which represents the first year of funding for our legislative framework.

Check out the timeline below to see the incredible accomplishments that the Common Start Coalition has made over the past two years. These accomplishments would not have been possible without the support of our incredible grassroots activists and supporters across the state!

Common Start Accomplishments 2018-2022

2018-2020 Formed coalition, conducted research, developed policy including Common Start principles and framework

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- **2020** Six regional Town Halls with early members and some legislators
 - **2021** Started communications via chapter meetings, fact sheets and website; collected over 200 personal stories
 - **March 2021** Virtual rally with 300 attendees
 - **Spring 2021** Co-Sponsor drive acquired 127
 - **Summer 2021** Screened *No Small Matter* film in six regions, included some legislators
 - **Fall 2021** Nine delegation visits with legislators who had not yet co-sponsored
 - **Nov. 2021** Hundreds at six regional rallies
 - **Nov. 2021** 14 testified live and 78 wrote comments to Joint Committee on Education; sent "recipe book" to the Committee
 - **Jan-March 2022** Seven Roundtables hosted with hundreds attending virtually
 - **March 2022** Five Common Start Steering Committee members on Econ. Rev. Comm.
 - **April 2022** Over 350 attended Boston Rally
 - **May & July 2022** Fifty participated in two Lobby Days
 - **June 2022** Six regional playdates
 - **June - July 2022** Generated over 1,250 emails to Legislators about the Education, Cmte bill
 - **July 2022** Over 60 vols called ~20,000 MIA voters and Common Start members; generated over 360 calls to Legislators
 - **February 2021** Filed legislation (H.605/S.362 - the 'Common Start bill')
 - **November 2021** Joint Committee on Education hears the bill, no opposition
 - **March 2022** Legislative Economic Review Commission released report, reflecting the Common Start vision
 - **May 2022** Joint Education Committee released their bill (H.4795/S.2883), also reflecting the Common Start vision
 - **July 7, 2022** Senate unanimously passed their version of the education bill (S.2973)
 - **July 28, 2022** Governor Baker signs FY'23 Budget, including a major down payment on the Common Start vision, even before the legislation is passed

Get Involved

We are incredibly optimistic about the prospect of legislative action in the near future as we continue to work with legislators on a bill that reflects our principles. If you're a parent, an early educator, a provider, an employer, or an advocate – we need your voice.

Sign up for updates, find a local chapter, and get involved at commonstartma.org/get-involved.