

# How Does Act 76 Support An Early Childhood Education Profession?

Act 76 and the Unifying Framework have shared goals.

Our Audacious Vision: (from the *Unifying Framework for the Early Childhood Education Profession*) ***Each and every child, beginning at birth, has the opportunity to benefit from high-quality, affordable early childhood education, delivered by an effective, diverse, well-prepared, and well-compensated workforce.***

Act 76 supports opportunities for more children to benefit from high-quality, affordable early childhood education.

- Increased funding through multiple channels helps many center-based and home-based early childhood education programs stabilize their operations, make program quality improvements, hire more educators and staff, expand or open new sites, and/or serve more children and families.
- Increased state funding helps make early childhood education more affordable for many more families.
- The state changed how it reimburses programs that receive funds through CCFAP (Child Care Financial Assistance Program) so those programs have more stable funding and can plan more easily.
- Act 76 directs the state to address resource gaps for children with special needs who are enrolled in early childhood education programs.

Act 76 supports an effective, diverse, well-prepared, well-compensated workforce.

- Sustainable public funding means early childhood educators have access to career-long education and quality supports that make it attractive to enter the workforce and grow.
- Act 76 directs the state to review minimum compensation recommendations from VTAEYC's Advancing Early Childhood Education as a Profession work group. This review is necessary for future legislation to create equitable minimum pay standards for early childhood educators.
- Act 76 does not change Vermont's mixed-delivery system. It does create a committee to study expanding Universal Pre-K to full school day for four year olds. The committee's report is due in December 2024.

# What Act 76 Does and Does Not Do:

Does	Does Not
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Invest \$125 million annually in Vermont's child care system</li><li>• Increase funding and stabilize funding streams for many early childhood education programs</li><li>• Make child care more affordable for more families</li><li>• Create the Pre-K Education Implementation Committee</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Create an early childhood education profession with individual professional licensure at specific professional designations</li><li>• Directly raise compensation to adequate levels for all early childhood educators</li><li>• Change Vermont's mixed-delivery Universal Pre-K system</li></ul>

## What happens in 2024?

- We advocate to ensure that the promises of Act 76 are kept.
- We monitor and collect feedback from the early childhood field to inform implementation partners' response to unintended consequences.
- We set expectations for 2025. The work of implementing professional identity and building workforce voice is important groundwork for what is to come next.

## What happens in 2025?

We work to enact policy and public investment that establishes early childhood education as a recognized profession and ensures Our Audacious Vision becomes reality.

## Where do I learn more about Act 76?

For information about Act 76, start at the [Child Development Division's Act 76 page](#).

Or see the early childhood ecosystem partner supporting implementation:

- [Building Bright Futures](#): monitoring and data collection
- [First Children's Finance](#): business planning
- [VTAEYC](#): career supports, program quality, and advocacy

See also: Act 76 explainer and resource pages from [Let's Grow Kids](#) and [Shared Services](#).

