

2021 VIRGINIA POLL ON EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



Access to quality child care will be a key issue in Virginia's 2021 elections. Amid heightened partisanship, early childhood education maintains strong bipartisan support. Virginians are looking to their elected officials and policymakers to take action to make quality child care more affordable and accessible.

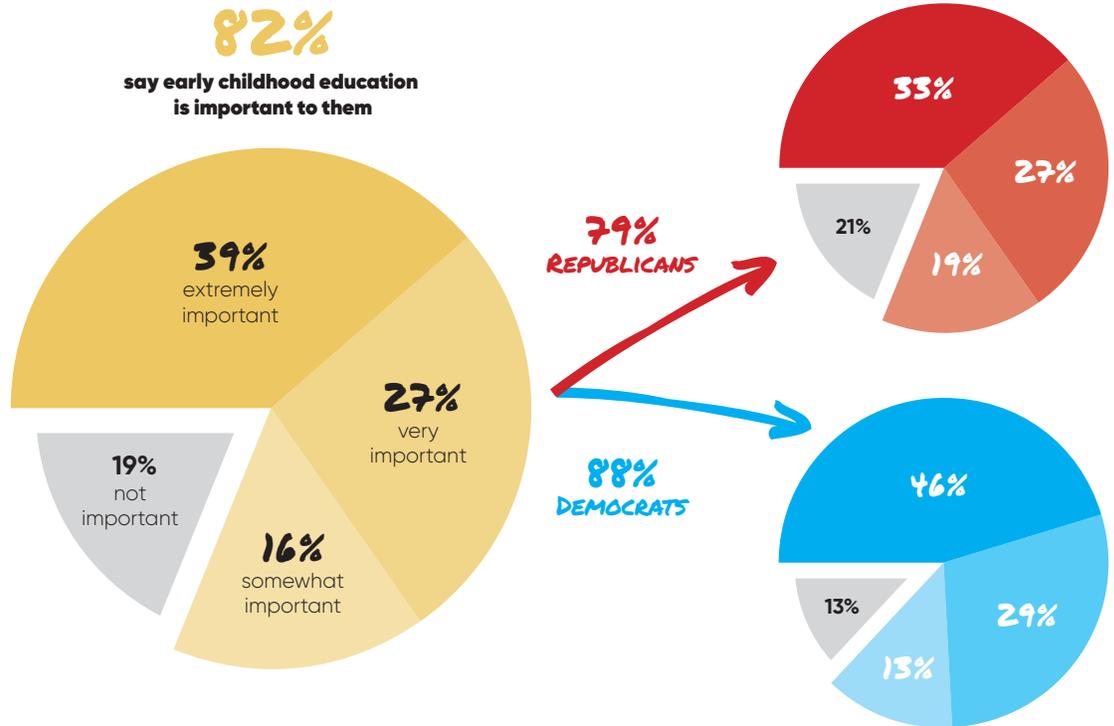
CHILD CARE IS IMPORTANT TO VIRGINIANS

Q: How important is expanding access to early childhood education to you personally?

Democrats and Republicans alike recognize the importance of quality child care.

82% of Virginians say expanding access to early childhood education is important to them personally.

This includes **79% of Republicans** and **88% of Democrats**.



VIRGINIANS FACE A NUMBER OF CHALLENGES WITH CHILD CARE

62% The cost is too expensive



Q: Which of the following do you think is the biggest challenge facing parents and families in your community when it comes to early childhood education?

62% of Virginians cited cost as the biggest challenge for families with early childhood education, followed by lack of availability, low quality care, and inconvenient locations.

LACK OF CHILD CARE IS AFFECTING JOBS AMID COVID-19

Q: Within the last 15 months, has someone in your household ever had their job impacted by a lack of access to early childhood education?

Two-thirds (67%) of parents say they or someone in their household has had their job impacted by a lack of access to child care within the last 15 months.



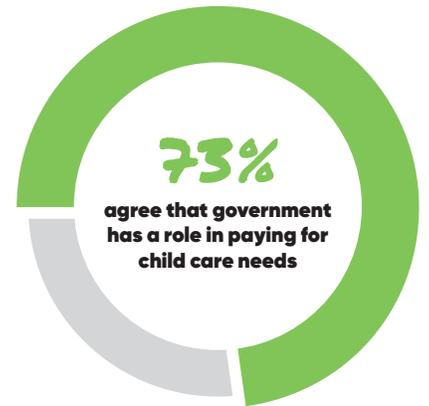
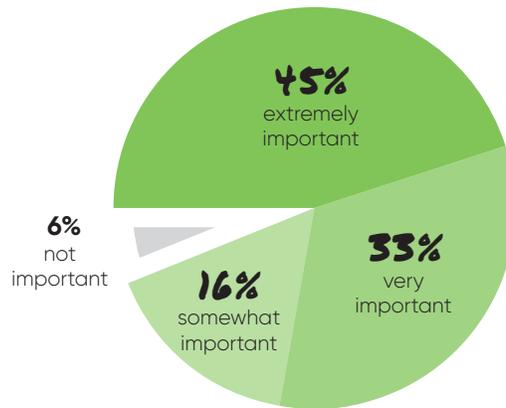
VIRGINIANS ARE LOOKING TO GOVERNMENT TO STRENGTHEN CHILD CARE

Q: How important is it for your state and local elected leaders to do more to make sure families have access to affordable child care in your community?

94% of Virginians agree that it's important for state and local elected leaders to take action to expand access to child care.

Moreover, **73% of Virginians** agree that government should have a role in paying for early childhood education needs.

94%
agree that it's important for elected leaders to take action



Q: Do you think government funding for expanding access to quality child care should be increased, decreased, or kept the same?

The **majority of Virginians (64%)** agree that government funding for expanding access to child care should be increased, with only 6% stating that funding should be decreased.

64% support increasing funding for early childhood education

Decreased - 6%

77%

of Virginians support providing funding to help low-to-moderate income families access child care, including 72% of Republicans and 87% of Democrats.

VIRGINIANS SUPPORT CHILD CARE-FRIENDLY CANDIDATES

Q: Would you be more or less likely to vote for a candidate who supports policies that give more families access to quality child care?

66% of Virginians are more likely to vote for a candidate who supports expanding access to child care.

This includes **68% of women**, **84% of African Americans**, and **75% of Virginians under the age of 45**.

