

DECEMBER 2022 VIRGINIA POLL ON EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Child care and early childhood education maintains strong bipartisan support among Virginia voters.

As children, families, and businesses continue to face child care challenges, Republican and Democratic voters alike are looking to their elected officials and policymakers to take action to make quality child care more affordable and accessible.

PARENTS ARE STRUGGLING TO ACCESS CHILD CARE

More than half (52%) of parents polled say they or someone in their household has struggled to access quality, affordable child care, primarily citing:



Child care programs are too expensive (83%)



Limited child care services in their community (35%)



No space to enroll in preferred program type (30%)



Limited child care services for infants and toddlers (20%)

VIRGINIA'S WORKFORCE IS HURTING

Nearly half (48%) of parents said their job is currently being negatively impacted by a lack of access to child care, resulting in:

23% Taking time off of work

18% Reducing or changing hours

11% Recently quitting their job

6% Recently turning down a promotion



79% of parents say they would fully rejoin the workforce if their household had access to quality, affordable child care.



82% of Virginia voters agreed that access to high-quality, affordable childcare enables more parents to join the workforce and support their families.

VOTERS AGREE THAT STATE LAWMAKERS MUST ACT



79% of Virginia voters say it is extremely or very important for state and local elected officials to take action to ensure child care is more affordable for and accessible to Virginia families.



72% of Virginia voters say it is extremely or very important for Virginia state legislators to support improved policies and increased funding that ensure families have access to quality, affordable child care.

The statewide survey of 600 Virginia voters, plus an additional oversample of 200 parents of young children, was conducted December 6 to 13, 2022 by The Tarrance Group on behalf of the Virginia Promise Partnership. The margin of error associated with a sample of this size is +/- 4.1%, and among all parents of children under 13 (base and oversample) is +/- 5.3%.