Early Childhood Education

Through Early Education initiatives, the Chamber Foundation Center for Education and Workforce explores the critical role of early childhood education and care in strengthening the current and future workforce, wherever possible enabling business to lead the way towards change.

Leading the Way: A Guide for Business Engagement in Early Education

Workforce of Today, Workforce of Tomorrow

Building a high-quality foundation of education from the start.

Business leaders have long understood the importance of a well-educated workforce to support a strong economy, keep America competitive globally, and ensure a vibrant democracy. These same leaders, through their leadership, have played a tremendous role in strengthening the education pipeline so crucial to economic growth and prosperity. What is less discussed is the underestimated, and as such historically under-supported, phase of education and human development: early childhood education, years 0-5.

In today’s economy, an unprecedented number of young children are in paid childcare for a substantial portion of their early years. And while childcare is a necessary support for the workforce of today (working parents), it also has a critical impact on children (the workforce of tomorrow) during the most consequential phase of human development.
We at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation (USCCF) believe that for American business, advancing high-quality childcare is a winning proposition. It's a wise investment in America's future, strengthening business today while building the workforce we'll depend on tomorrow and for decades to come. Our goal is to educate and encourage business to make this wise investment.

The Toolkit

As a part of our initiative, we produced a toolkit called **Leading the Way: A Guide for Business Engagement in Early Education** (https://www.uschamberfoundation.org/reports/leading-way-guide-business-engagement-education), which provides resources to enable the business community to advance access to high-quality, affordable childcare to support employees, the broader community, and the country.

This includes:

- Key facts and an elevator speech on childcare
- A tactical guide with tangible ways that the business community can make an impact
- Case studies that illustrate best practices and lessons learned for how to engage.

**Download the Toolkit** (https://www.uschamberfoundation.org/reports/leading-way-guide-business-engagement-education)

Making the Business Case
Our report, The Business Case for High-Quality Education (https://www.uschamberfoundation.org/reports/workforce-today-workforce-tomorrow), explores the under-recognized role of high-quality childcare in the education and workforce pipeline. This report, and the initiatives that have followed its release, stress the importance of high-quality education from an early age to support the development of the workforce of tomorrow, and the parents and guardians trying to provide that education while contributing to the workforce of today.

Specifically, the report outlines 10 things that the business community can do to advance access to high-quality childcare.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation released this report at an event in June of 2017. The event included keynote speeches and panel discussions featuring leaders in the education, workforce, and child development space. Read more about the event or watch the recorded webcast. (https://www.uschamberfoundation.org/event/workforce-today-workforce-tomorrow-business-case-high-quality-child-care)