



An early learning scholarship for Tennessee's littlest learners – SB750/HB785



TENNESSEE'S EARLY LITERACY AND LEARNING CRISIS IS ACUTE.

Two-thirds of Tennessee third graders aren't proficient in reading or math.¹

CHILD CARE IS CRUCIAL ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE THAT'S FAILING OUR FAMILIES AND BUSINESSES.

Inadequate child care results in \$2.6 billion annually in lost earnings and revenues for parents, businesses and taxpayers.²

CHILD CARE IS EARLY EDUCATION AND, DONE RIGHT, CAN ADVANCE EARLY LEARNING AND LITERACY.

Learning begins at birth, and the quality of care for a child, regardless of the setting, determines whether the child builds a weak or strong foundation for future learning.

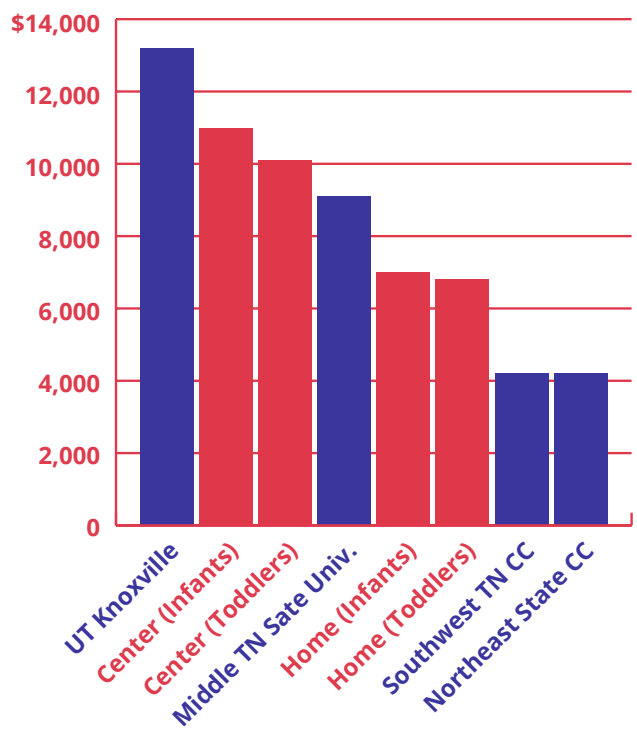
BUT PARENTS STRUGGLE TO AFFORD CHILD CARE AND EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS.

Unfortunately, child care is largely unaffordable for working families – costing more than in-state college tuition.³

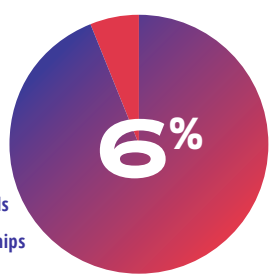
ENTER PROMISING FUTURES (SB750/HB785)

Promising Futures is a scholarship program created for low- to middle-income children ages 0 – 5 to attend high-quality early care and learning programs.

Child care costs more on average than in-state college tuition in Tennessee



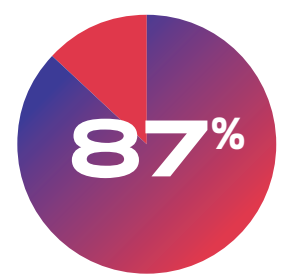
Promising Futures as a share of total lottery and sports betting funds dedicated to education⁴



6% Estimated funds that would be dedicated to Promising Futures

94% Estimated funds dedicated to post-secondary scholarships annually

Percentage of Tennesseans who support expanding state financial aid to cover child care costs so parents can afford to work⁵



1. Tennessee Department of Education. <https://www.tn.gov/education/news/2022/7/6/tdoe-releases-2021-22-tcap-district-level-results-driving-student-academic-achievement-and-acceleration-.html>

2. Tennesseans for Quality Early Education, The Economics of Tennessee's Child Care Crisis. 2022. <https://tqee.org/app/uploads/2022/12/2022-TQEE-Child-Care-Study.pdf>

3. College tuition rates were retrieved from the colleges' websites and child care costs were retrieved from Permaul, B. (August 2021), Determining Child Care Market Rates in the State of Tennessee, FY2021. University of Tennessee, Boyd Center for Business and Economic Research.

4. The 94% reflects a combination of: 1) the TN Promise Scholarship Endowment balance of \$776.1 million as of June 30, 2021 as stated in the Comptroller of the Treasury's Division of State Audit report dated December 20, 2021; plus 2) the low estimate of \$490.7 million for net Lottery proceeds for the Lottery for Education Account as reflected in the FY 2023 state budget. The 6% reflects an estimated average \$9 million/month in sports betting proceeds for 12 months of FY 2023, 80% of which goes to the Lottery for Education Account for as yet unspecified purposes. Estimates are based on sports betting tax revenues collected Oct – Dec 2022.

5. Tennesseans for Quality Early Education commissioned Public Opinion Strategies to conduct a statewide voter survey in November 2022. Voters across party lines overwhelmingly support investments in child care financial aid for working Tennessee families.

What Tennesseans are saying about why they support Promising Futures

"Our monthly child care payment is more than our mortgage. I know we're doing the right thing for our child, but we are stretched so thin."

-JENN R., CHATTANOOGA, TN

"We went from two incomes to one when our baby was born because we couldn't find daycare, and when we finally did, we couldn't afford it...In today's society, thanks to inflation and rises in poverty, parents have to work...We cannot afford to not work, yet child care is too expensive if we work outside of the home. This needs to change!"

-KAYLEEN M., COOKEVILLE, TN

"We cannot expect families to break the cycle of poverty if we don't remove barriers for child care for working families and students."

-VENITA D., BARTLETT, TN

"This year my family has spent nearly \$20,000 to keep my one- and three-year-old sons in daycare. This is an incredible burden to our family. We are losing nearly an entire income to pay for child care. We are fortunate that our family can afford this, but it is an incredible hardship for many families."

-ELIZABETH H., SEVIERVILLE, TN

"As a middle-class working parent, the cost of child care is overwhelming. Our children are in a center that in many ways is less than what we desire for them. These are their most formative years, and we wish we could afford to send them to the highest quality care as they learn and grow."

-CARRIE P., KNOXVILLE, TN

"As a single parent, finding affordable, good child care was been difficult. All children deserve a start where they can thrive no matter their parents' income."

-SHAWN C., NASHVILLE, TN

"Promising Futures is of particular interest to us as leaders of chambers of commerce across Tennessee. With a mission of driving regional economic prosperity, we know that a strong early education foundation, from birth to third grade, is the key to not only academic achievement, but also workforce success and a strong economic future for our state."

-16 CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE ACROSS THE STATE OF TENNESSEE