



35<sup>th</sup> Annual Child Advocacy Day

Hot Topics

April 6, 2017

# Child Advocacy Day Hot Topics



- FY2018 Budget for Children's Programs
- Full Funding of Foundation Formula
- PreK Contracting and Availability
- Criminal Background Checks for Childcare Providers
- Missouri Earned Income Tax Credit



# FY18 Budget for Children's Programs

- Meaningful rate increases for children's treatment services
- Increases for Parents as Teachers and preschool quality
- \$500K for Missouri Children's Trauma Network
  - Training for clinicians in evidence based mental health treatments for children
- \$500K State and \$1.250M Federal
  - Medicaid reimbursement for treatment of children who have experienced abuse
- \$250K to support medical evaluations of children under age 4 who are suspected victims of abuse
- \$75K child abuse resource prosecutor



# Full Funding of Foundation Formula

Full funding of the school foundation formula will trigger provisions of the PreK law passed in 2014 allowing school districts to count students in their PreK classrooms in their average daily attendance.

- Up to 4% of a school's free and reduced lunch students are eligible to be counted in daily attendance and funded
- Currently only about 4% of Missouri preschoolers are in publicly funded PreK classrooms.



# PreK Contracting and Availability SB378 and HB457

These bills would allow school districts, at their discretion, to contract with local childcare providers for PreK classrooms:

- Expand access to PreK
- Allow parents to chose an appropriate environment for their children
- Promote quality and accountability across settings
- Merge existing professional development resources
- Expand the program to full-day and/or full-year to provide high quality early learning settings for young children with working parents



# Criminal Background Check for Childcare Providers—SB523

The U.S. Congress reauthorized the Child Development Block Grant in 2014 requiring that anyone who has contact with a child in a childcare setting be subject to:

- A fingerprint check of the FBI's Automated Fingerprint Identification System
- A check of the National Sex Offender Registry
- Missouri will lose 5% of its Child Care Development Block Grant funds if it does not comply with these new requirements
- SB523 is a first step and will bring the state into partial compliance
- Further legislation will be needed for full compliance



# Missouri Earned Income Tax Credit SB197 and HB109

Twenty-six states and the District of Columbia allow low income taxpayers who are eligible for the federal Earned Income Tax Credit to also claim a tax credit on their state income tax

- These bills would allow a credit on state taxes of 20%
- 500K low income families in Missouri, many with children, would be eligible for EITC
- EITC has been shown to be an effective anti-poverty program lifting five million children out of poverty in 2013
- EITC provides a work incentive and stimulates local economies
- The credit helps families pay for childcare, home and automobile repairs

