



2015 Legislative Priorities

The Colorado Children's Campaign serves as the leading voice for kids at the Colorado State Capitol and in communities across the state. Throughout our 30-year history we've worked with policymakers from every corner of the state and every political perspective to improve the well-being of Colorado kids. Children's issues aren't partisan, and we've learned that innovative and effective solutions to our state's issues move forward when we work together.

As the 2015 session of the Colorado General Assembly begins, we've collected the best available data and research on child well-being to help advocates advance—and protect—policies and investments we know will provide the greatest benefits to kids. Our focus this session includes:

EARLY CHILDHOOD

- Promoting access to quality, affordable child care by investing in the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP), supporting early childhood professionals and informal caregivers, and advancing strategies to help families access the quality care they need to participate in the workforce.
- Expanding early learning and development opportunities by supporting pre-kindergarten and kindergarten access, and encouraging public-private partnerships that promote quality early experiences.
- Ensuring that changes to Colorado's student academic assessment system support children's school readiness and early literacy needs.

CHILD HEALTH

- Continuing health care coverage expansion to ensure every child in Colorado has the health insurance he or she needs, public or private, to get preventive health services like well-child checks and access to affordable acute care when sick or injured.
- Advancing opportunities to ensure every child gets a healthy start in life, including prenatal care for mothers, affordable and accessible immunizations, ample amounts of healthy foods, opportunities for safe physical activity and access to quality, affordable oral and mental health services.

K-12 EDUCATION

- Protecting and supporting the implementation of school improvement legislation, including:
 - High academic standards.
 - Meaningful assessments that provide a full picture of student growth and needs.
 - A framework for educator evaluation that improves professional practice.
 - Competency-based graduation guidelines that ensure Colorado's high school graduates are prepared for success in college and career.
- Advocating for education funding that is sufficient, equitable and targeted to supporting our most vulnerable students, including at-risk populations, English language learners and struggling readers.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Colorado Children's Campaign's Lunch and Learn Series

Join us for one or more of our annual explorations of the most pressing issues facing Colorado kids.

Kids 101 Breakfast: Thursday, Jan. 22

K-12 Education: Thursday, Feb. 5

Healthy Start Agenda: Wednesday, Feb. 18

2015 KIDS COUNT in Colorado!: Thursday, March 19

The Kids 101 breakfast event will be held at the Capitol from 8 to 9 a.m.

All other events in the Lunch and Learn series will be held from noon to 1 p.m. at the Colorado Children's Campaign offices directly north of the Capitol at 1580 Lincoln St, Suite 420.

A complimentary breakfast or lunch will be provided for all attendees or legislators may purchase for \$5 to comply with Amendment 41 requirements.

Please RSVP to Sarah Barnes at sarahb@coloradokids.org or at 303.620.4571.

Speak Up For Kids at the Capitol will be held March 18, 2015 in partnership with Children's Hospital Colorado and Clayton Early Learning. Together, we'll provide training and coaching to help advocates speak up on the most pressing issues facing Colorado kids. For more information, contact Jacy Montoya Price at 303-620-4547 or jacy@coloradokids.org or visit coloradokids.org.

ABOUT US

The Colorado Children's Campaign is a non-profit, nonpartisan advocacy organization committed since 1985 to realizing *every chance for every child in Colorado*. We advocate for the development and implementation of data-driven public policies that improve child well-being in health, education and early childhood. We do this by providing Coloradans with trusted data and research on child well-being and organizing an extensive statewide network of dedicated child advocates.



IT'S ABOUT KIDS

It's About Kids (IAK) is the Colorado Children's Campaign's statewide, grassroots advocacy network. It is comprised of more than 3,300 professionals, community and business leaders, government and legislative staff, parents and other engaged citizens joined together by their concern for the well-being of Colorado's children. The It's About Kids Network is led by a dedicated group of **50 volunteer community leaders in 44 counties** who provide guidance and direction to their communities and to the Children's Campaign in a variety of ways, including:

- Voicing the unique needs and characteristics of the children in their communities.
- Engaging in regular dialogue and information exchange with Children's Campaign policy staff to help shape and support our legislative agenda.
- Establishing and maintaining relationships with policymakers and the media in their communities.



Bringing Colorado Communities Together

To learn more about the It's About Kids Network, contact Liz Houston at liz@coloradokids.org or 303-620-4532.

STAY INFORMED

Sign up at coloradokids.org for KidsFlash, our weekly e-newsletter, to stay up-to-date on the latest news on child well-being in Colorado. You can also find us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Google+, LinkedIn and Pinterest.

For more information on the Children's Campaign's work at the Colorado State Capitol, contact Christine Staberg at 303.868.8979.

COLORADO CHILDREN'S CAMPAIGN

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