

A MIXED-DELIVERY SYSTEM IS THE MOST SUSTAINABLE AND EFFICIENT SOLUTION TO MEET POLICY OBJECTIVES

A mixed-delivery system administers funds across licensed center- and family-based child care programs, Head Start, Early Head Start, public schools, and community-based organizations to ensure access to high-quality, affordable options for children through age five and their families.

An appropriately funded mixed-delivery system, which would draw on the decades of expertise and existing infrastructure in the early care and education sector is essential. It is the most cost-effective and sustainable solution to deliver affordable high-quality early care and education to all.

A well-funded mixed-delivery system avoids disruptions to children and families and better facilitates a quality birth to five system of early care and learning

Supports choice and flexibility for families

Ensures high-quality experiences for children

Protects diversity in the provider network

Promotes educational continuity

Leverages essential infrastructure

Ensures flexible hours and year-round care

Prioritizes equitable access and affordability

Working families need access to options with hours that meet their needs.

Private providers offer full-year, full-day early care and education options from birth to five, unlike public Pre-K programs that do not typically support infants and toddlers and have more limited hours.

Parents at all income levels and across geographies need the ability to choose which program is best suited for their children and family needs.

Alongside public counterparts, private providers ensure that numerous affordable options exist for children, especially in at-risk areas.

Children benefit from continuity of experience with the same caring adults throughout the day and year.

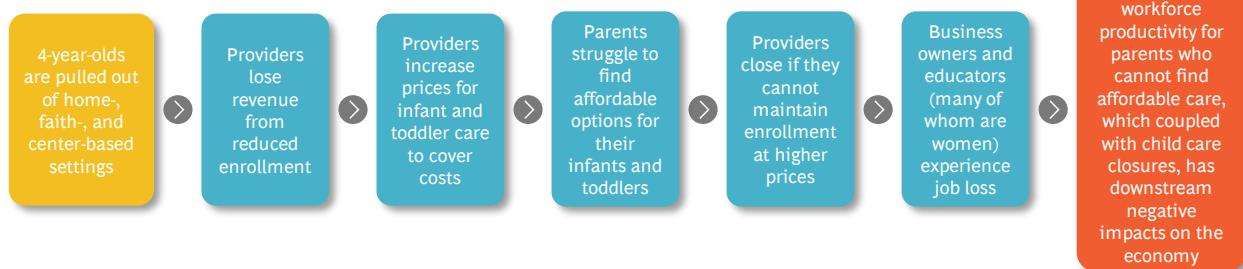
Private programs, whether center-, home-, or faith-based, provide a continuous experience for children and families across all working hours—which simultaneously benefits parents.

The private early care and education space is comprised of predominantly small businesses operated by women—and primarily by women of color.

These providers currently serve the majority of young children across a range of settings, both home- and center-based.

THERE ARE SIGNIFICANT NEGATIVE UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES OF LIMITED PRIVATE PARTICIPATION OR A PUBLIC-ONLY DELIVERY SYSTEM

Unintended consequences of a poorly designed system without robust private provider participation



Affordability and program closures

If Pre-K children are displaced from their current programs, private providers would need to raise prices significantly for infants and toddlers, rendering these services unaffordable for many families. If providers cannot maintain enrollment at these higher prices, many will have no choice but to close their doors.

Child care shortages

Widescale closures of private options would cause a massive shortage—beyond the shortages that already exist today in child care deserts across the country. Many private providers deliver wraparound care to school-age children, so a child care shortage would impact families with children of all ages.

Impact on educators, small business owners, and the economy

Program closures and child care shortages would negatively impact the economy as industry jobs are lost (both providers and educators) and parents are forced to drop out of the workforce due to lack of adequate care options.

We have seen these interrelated negative consequences play out across the country

TULSA

In Tulsa, Oklahoma, where free public Pre-K accounts for the vast majority of preschool programming, costs of early care and education increased 33% overall from 2008 to 2018, with spikes of up to 55% for infants and toddlers. And from 2005 to 2018, 43% of all licensed early care and education providers in Oklahoma closed.

CALIFORNIA

California saw the number of home-based-providers decrease by almost 30% from 2008 to 2016, largely due to the increase in state funded 4-year-old Pre-K programs. And ECEC analysis shows that if 4-year-olds are pulled out of their current settings as part of the expansion, providers anticipate having to raise prices in the 0-3 space by ~40%.

NEW YORK CITY

In New York City, a system many see as the model for universal Pre-K, one study points to as much as a 20% reduction of available infant and toddler care after the implementation of universal 4-year-old Pre-K in 2014. Furthermore, all lost slots were found to be in high-poverty areas, and the decline was not offset by an increase in provision in the home day care market.