

# ECE Advocacy Menu—Spring 2019

**Pre-K for PA**, launched in 2014, has generated significant increases in Pre-K funding. With the success of Pre-K, however, many childcare providers have struggled to maintain care for infants and toddlers, sparking the new **Start Strong PA** campaign, which aims to secure additional funding to serve infants and toddlers in high-quality care. We need YOUR voice to help make this happen, by engaging families, educators, community members, and legislators on the importance of ECE! This menu of activities has something for everybody!

## EVERYBODY can:

- Sign up staff, families, and employers as campaign supporters ([www.startstrongpa.org](http://www.startstrongpa.org))
- Call, write, or visit your local legislators (find out who represents you at [www.openstates.org](http://www.openstates.org)). Tell them why ECE matters!
- Include #StartStrongPA, #PreK4PA, #IamPreK, and others in daily posts from your program or personal account
- Follow other advocacy organizations on social media, and share their messages on social media and in messages to families (First Up, PennAEYC, Zero to Three, NAEYC, and others)

## Other helpful activities that make a difference...

- Adopt a Legislator: Contact your legislator once a month to share stories on the impact of quality ECE (*tip: Display an “Adopt Our Legislator” board with legislators’ information*).
- Send information home to families to engage them in advocacy (*tip: include an advocacy section in your program newsletter*).
- Engage staff in short advocacy activities at each staff meeting to build advocacy habits.
- Send Letters to the Editor to local media (contact [Elizabeth.Ozer@firstup.org](mailto:Elizabeth.Ozer@firstup.org) for a template).
- Post Pre-K yard signs/ posters at your program, or distribute information at community events.
- Include Pre-K for PA or Start Strong PA stickers in goodie bags, for prizes, and at other outreach events.
- Join a Capital Caravan to meet with legislators at the Capitol, or stop by their local office. (*Tip: bring them framed artwork to display on shelves or hang on the wall*).
- Host a film screening or advocacy event at your program to engage the community.
- Support Get Out the Vote by ensuring staff and families are registered and planning to vote (*tip: provide extended hours on Election Day to help all participate*).
- Run for office!

Help increase quality for young children, and for ECE Professionals... such as yourself! For support on making this happen (materials, scheduling, what to do, etc.), contact [Elizabeth.Ozer@firstup.org](mailto:Elizabeth.Ozer@firstup.org).

