Support for early learning and family-friendly policies is not a partisan issue. GEEARS recently commissioned a bipartisan team of pollsters to survey 600 Georgians likely to vote in the upcoming election. Respondents made it clear—issues like early childhood education, paid family leave, and mental health supports are priorities for voters across the state.

# Pressing Issues Facing Georgians

As voters nearly unanimously worry about issues like inflation (96% deemed it "important"), many also emphasize **child care** and **improving access to mental health services**.

- **Making sure that working parents can find quality, affordable child care**
  - 80% Very Important
  - 50% Total Important
  - 20% Not Important

- **Improving access to mental health services for children and families**
  - 87% Very Important
  - 63% Total Important
  - 13% Not Important

# Voters Support Early Childhood Education

- **Nearly half (49%) say that finding quality, affordable child care is a problem in their area.**

- **62% of voters who have a young child.**

- **66% of voters in metro Atlanta.**

- **58% of voters with an annual household income under $50,000.**

- **78% agree that expanding access to high-quality child care gives parents the opportunity to participate in the workforce, which is good for Georgia’s economy.**

- **55% are more likely to vote for candidates who support early care & learning.**

- **65% support state funding to help low-to-moderate income families afford child care.**

*Respondents were from across Georgia, and included a broad cross-section of likely voters. Responses were collected via landlines, cellphones, and text messages from Sept. 20-22, 2022. Selection was random and interviews were stratified by county, race/ethnicity, age and gender to correlate with current voter registration statistics and actual voter turnout from previous elections. The poll had an accuracy of +/- 4.0% at 95% confidence interval.*
Support for Georgia's Pre-K has been Consistently High

Nearly nine in ten (88%) support GA's Lottery-funded, free and voluntary Pre-K.

2010: 83%
2014: 87%
2018: 80%
2022: 88%

Support for Georgia's Pre-K has been Consistently High

VOTERS SUPPORT THE ECE WORKFORCE

- 77% total support comparable salaries for early education professionals
  - 67% Republican
  - 88% Democrat

- 83% total support increasing salaries for child care and preschool teachers
  - 74% Republican
  - 95% Democrat

4 IN 5 VOTERS SUPPORT PAID FAMILY LEAVE

- 80% total for the birth or adoption of a child
  - 71% Republican
  - 93% Democrat

- 83% total to care for themselves or a family member with an illness
  - 74% Republican
  - 97% Democrat

CHILD AND FAMILY MENTAL HEALTH

- 68% are more likely to vote for candidates who support policies that give families and young children better access to mental health services.
- 93% Georgians overwhelmingly agree that children’s social-emotional development during their early years is important to their later school success.

Swing Voters: 67% more likely
Women: 73% more likely

See full results, including crosstabs, at www.GEEARS.org/POLLING