

RESET is a targeted, nonpartisan effort led by the Committee of 100 (C100), the Council for A Better Louisiana (CABL), and the Public Affairs Research Council (PAR) focused on four state policy issues: education, state finance, criminal justice, and transportation infrastructure.

2021 REGULAR SESSION POLICY PRIORITY:

Strengthen Early Childhood Education

Expand access to high-quality early learning experiences for economically disadvantaged children from birth to age three – making sure all children enter kindergarten ready to learn.

COMMIT A SIGNIFICANT LEVEL OF STATE FUNDING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

The state should make funding for early education a budget priority and resume the process of appropriating a meaningful level of State General Fund revenue to expand access to quality early care and education programs. This investment will allow Louisiana to continue to support low-to-moderate income workers by allowing them to place their children in high-quality childcare settings while also supporting the businesses where those workers are employed.

PRIORITIZE NEW REVENUES TO FURTHER EXPAND ACCESS TO EARLY EDUCATION

The Legislature should make a long-term commitment to early education by prioritizing money from any new revenue sources for the Louisiana Early Childhood Education Fund. This fund provides matching grants to local entities to support expanded access to early education opportunities.

STABILIZE THE EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION SECTOR

State leaders should continue to target federal pandemic stimulus funds to the early care and education sector to help Louisiana citizens return to work. The childcare sector is a critical component in the business recovery of the state and requires appropriate access to financial support to meet the needs of a reopening economy.