Last year, at least 26 states increased spending on their preschool programs. This year, legislators and governors are again talking about universal preschool in Virginia, Arizona, New Jersey, and other states. Below are some excerpts from various news reports.

California Preschool for All

California voters will vote up or down on the "Preschool for All" ballot initiative in June. The proposal states that the Preschool for All programs will be administered by county superintendents of schools. The initiative also adds numerous additional restrictions and regulations on pre-K programs, such as subjecting all preschool providers to collective bargaining, requiring preschool programs to follow the current K-12 salary schedule, and requiring all preschool teachers to obtain bachelors' degrees and early childhood credentials. These requirements will drive many of the current private preschool providers out of business, leaving government-run preschools as the only alternative for many California families.

Universal Preschool in Hawaii?

In an idea they believe will move Hawaii closer to universal preschool for 4-year-olds, several leading educators and childcare advocates have recommended the state Legislature create a new authority that would make the state the first in the US to offer universal preschool to 3-year-olds.

Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack Says He'll Ask the Legislature to Guarantee Preschool for Every Child

"Governor Vilsack has called on the Iowa Legislature to provide more funding for child care and preschool programs this year.... Additional preschool funding is 'for the kids' so anyLegislator who dares vote against such a plan will likely be portrayed as anti-child in the next election, almost ensuring the passage of at least some additional funding this year.... In addition, a tax credit program would allow businesses to show their support for preschool and educational programs while...
Although we will not be pre-registering for the 2005 Disney Teacher of the Year, William Glasser, and David Vixie, the sessions featuring William Daggett, there will be a few mega-sessions for deans, registrars, superintendents, associate superintendents, deans, food service, etc. Please see the website for times and speciality dessecriptors so you can find all of the sessions you would like to attend. The day and session times are included so you can make your own breakout session schedule.

The NAD Office of Education has been overwhelmed with the response of teachers and others who would like to be breakout presenters. We have more than 350 individual sessions in six slots over three days. We have had more than 450 sessions suggested or recommended. Obviously, we can not accommodate all of the sessions. Some sessions we feel should be offered multiple times to ensure as many participants as possible attending. Other sessions will be in large rooms and offered only once.

We have scheduled “Shop Talk” sessions for most areas including every grade level, all secondary subject areas, librarian, registrars, superintendents, associate superintendents, deans, food service, etc. Please see the website for times and sessions. There will be a few mega-sessions featuring William Daggett, William Glasser, and David Vixie, the 2005 Disney Teacher of the Year.

Although we will not be pre-registering for the 2006 North American Division’s National SDA Teachers’ Convention being held on August 6-9, 2006, in Nashville, Tennessee. We are thrilled that the North American Division is including early childhood professionals in this exciting event. Now we just need to make sure your local conferences are “counting us in”.

If you are interested in attending the convention, please fill out and send or fax an “Application to Attend”, fill it out and send or fax it to your local Conference Office of Education and the ACCN office. We need a “headcount” of early childhood educators’ attendance very soon!

This application is not a commitment to attend. You are simply letting your Conference, Union, and Division know that you are interested in what they have to offer and you want to attend. Also, please separate the invitation from the funding issue; at this point they are not interdependent.

The Adventist Child Care Network, Pacific Union Conference Early Childhood Education and Care Division and the Southern Union Office of Education are working with your local Conference Education Superintendents regarding the coverage of expenses for attending the convention. Some conferences have decided to cover the travel, hotel, food, and convention registration fees.

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The NAD Website has been upgraded to allow you to see all of the breakout sessions that have been approved, as well as the approved exhibitors. The data format can be searched and queried to find sessions, presenters and speciality breakouts. Currently the session descriptions are not on-line, but you can see when the sessions are offered, the presenter(s) and the location. Soon we will add a short description and a speciality descriptor so you can find all of the breakout sessions for deans, principals, K-2 etc. We will continually update the website until the convention, so bookmark it and come back often.

If you have any questions, please call! We are planning on seeing each one of you there!

**Breakout Sessions**

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**Website Upgrade**

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**Exhibit Highlights**

We recently had to expand the exhibit hall to accommodate the number of registered exhibitors. To date we have more than 100 exhibitors occupying more than 200, 10’ x 10’ booth spaces. We are trying a new concept this year; we will have a number of preferred vendors that will be setting up training booths within the exhibit hall. Palm, Visions Technology (Writer’s Companion), Kendall Hunt (New K-8 language arts publisher) are a few of the large training pavilions that are scheduled. Vendors will be able to do 15-30 minute presentations in a classroom format. If you would like more in depth instruction most will have additional breakout sessions that will go into more detail.

Another vendor that will be conducting extended training will be Hunter Systems. Hunter will be unveiling its new small school management software developed particularly for the NAD. This software is very exciting, so plan on spending some time in this training during the convention.

So…bottom line:

Acquire an “Application to Attend” the North American Division Teachers’ Convention (enclosed).

Send/fax the “Application to Attend” to your local Conference Office of Education immediately – by April 24!!

Send/fax a copy of the “Application to Attend” to the ACCN office at 805-413-7319.

If you need your local Conference Office of Education contact names and phone number, call the ACCN office at 805-413-7342.

If you have any questions, please call! We are planning on seeing each one of you there!
North Caribbean Conference Youth Leader’s Summit

April 13-16, 2006 was a very special weekend for the North Caribbean Conference Youth Leader’s Summit.

Adventist youth workers from all over the Caribbean assembled to learn two things: how to develop leadership skills in themselves and in the children they serve. Our very own ACCN editor was invited to attend and give a series of presentations on both topics and attendees could not have been more wonderful!

The summit focused on the training of young children – mainly through the use of nature. Olassee Davis, a native Virgin Islander and ecologist, naturalist, ethno-botanist and agriculturalist emphasized the value of nature’s spiritual lessons. Sharing this topic, former World Pathfinder Leader, Elder Robert Holbrook, gave several seminars on the history and value of utilizing God's first textbook.

Erich Baumgartner, Ph.D., from Andrews University delivered several messages on the intrinsic requirements of leaders and Christine Gillan-Byrne spoke on training young children and various components of spiritual leadership. Other presenters dealt with subjects such as child safety and the prevention of child abuse, fiscal accountability, collaboration and mentoring.

Perhaps the most exhilarating sessions were those that focused on the importance of Adventist education. In fact, the Inter-America Division has launched an educational capital campaign in an effort to raise $1,000,000 for Adventist education. Sabbath afternoon, each attendee received a pre-printed envelope specifically for education offerings. It was very exciting to see the ministers on the platform stalwartly promoting Adventist education.

Even though the North Caribbean Conference does not currently operate any early childhood programs, they are very dedicated to the training of young children. Programs for young children are strong and well attended and many other states have openings for DIRECTORS.

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If you are an experienced Adventist early childhood teacher or director and would be interested in broadening your influential base, we need you to contact us!

Christine@puconline.org
Phone: 805-413-7342
Vermont

The Senate Education Committee on Thursday tabled a controversial proposal that would have set rules for public preschool programs and instead asked state officials to study the issue further. The panel voted 3-2 in favor of a committee bill that directs the education commissioner and the head of the Department of Families and Children to develop models for assessing early education needs in communities. The study also would look at how school districts would work with private providers to offer preschool programs.

The bill also prohibits the state Board of Education from changing state rules regarding early education services or funding. www.timesrepublican.com/edit/story/026202006_edtedit.asp

New York May Require Kindergarten

Although most New York children start public school at age 5, their attendance is not required and school districts are not obligated to offer kindergarten, but that could change with a proposal the state Board of Regents is considering. People who favor reducing the compulsory starting school age from 6 to 5 and requiring school districts to provide full-day kindergarten, as the regents are contemplating, say doing so would bring state policy in line with actual practice.

www.stargazettenews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060109/NEWS01/601090308