



**ELLEVATE**  
**LOUISIANA**

## *2026 Policy Positions*

### **Early Childhood Education & K-12**

#### ***Early Childhood Education***

Ellevate Louisiana, as part of the Ready Louisiana Coalition, supports sustained, recurring funding for early childhood care as a critical driver for Louisiana's workforce participation and long-term economic growth. Strengthening access to affordable, high-quality early learning supports working families, improves lifelong outcomes, and enhances the state's talent pipeline. We support maintaining and expanding funding for programs such as CCAP and the Louisiana Early Childhood Education Fund, including policies that codify and strengthen the fund's matching structure to ensure state investment keeps pace with local demand. Innovative approaches to expand care such as school-based microcenters and expanded dedicated funding streams present important opportunities to increase access. Improving quality, optimizing delivery, and expanding early childhood care are essential to uplifting Louisiana's youngest learners and the families who depend on these services.

#### ***Teacher Pay***

Ellevate Louisiana supports raising public school teacher salaries to at least the Southern regional average to recruit and retain high-quality educators. Competitive and stable compensation is essential to addressing teacher shortages, strengthening the education workforce, and ensuring students receive the high-quality instruction they deserve. Policies that improve teacher pay and support workforce stability will help Louisiana attract talented educators, retain experienced teachers, and enhance student outcomes statewide.



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#### ***Dual Enrollment & Postsecondary Pathways***

Ellevate Louisiana supports expanding equitable access to dual enrollment opportunities that allow high school students to earn college credit while still in school. Dual enrollment accelerates students' progress toward postsecondary education, reduces the cost of obtaining a degree, and strengthens preparedness for the workforce. We support policies that streamline participation, remove barriers to access, and accelerate the attainment of high-quality credentials, including the development of a single statewide application process and stronger coordination between K-12 schools and postsecondary institutions.

#### ***Career Exposure & Work-Based Learning***

Ellevate Louisiana supports policies that strengthen cradle-to-career pathways for Louisiana students. As economic development accelerates and job markets grow more competitive, the state must ensure students have meaningful opportunities, early in their education, to develop the skills and experiences needed to succeed in their home state. We encourage policies that foster strong partnerships between schools, businesses, and industry, aligning education with Louisiana's evolving workforce needs and meeting employer demand. Expanding career exposure, work-based learning, internships, youth apprenticeships, and other hands-on opportunities will better prepare students for success while bolstering Louisiana's workforce and economy.