

**Question for Chancellor Ron Elsenbaumer  
Faculty Senate  
Purdue University Fort Wayne  
February 2026**

**SENATE REFERENCE NO. 25-18**

***Question:***

During the presentation of the university budget at the January Fort Wayne Senate meeting, the university showed a much healthier CFI rating despite the budget cuts from the state and decreased enrollment (particularly from international students). What will the benefits of a healthy CFI rating be for faculty and staff moving forward? In particular:

- Has the sale of the TLC property remained with the Purdue Fort Wayne Foundation or been directed toward programs for the university? The Foundation's website does not list programs it funds anymore.
- Given that the purchaser of the TLC property has resold the property, do the agreements for benefits for PFW faculty, staff, and students remain in place?
- Can URAC, the Purdue Fort Wayne Foundation, and the proposed Childcare Advisory Council look into expanding funds from the TLC property sale to augment Purdue University Human Resources' Childcare Assistance Program for faculty and staff?
- Will the positive change in CFI lead to the restoration of travel funding and research funding in the coming academic year?

*(S. Buttes, M. Wolf)*

***Response from Chancellor Elsenbaumer:***

Composite Financial Index, or CFI, is a critical metric used to assess the overall financial health of an institution. The CFI is a standardized score that combines four core financial ratios to give a holistic picture of a university's fiscal stability. These core measures are Primary Reserve Ratio, Viability Ratio, Return on Net Assets Ratio, and Net Operating Revenues Ratio. A score of 3 is generally considered the threshold for "minimal" financial health. Accrediting bodies, like the Higher Learning Commission, use this index to monitor institutional risk.

The benefits of a healthy CFI to faculty and staff are not necessarily those that can be enumerated. Rather, a healthy CFI is an overall indicator of sound fiscal management and appropriate stewardship of financial resources that benefit the entire university.

The sale of The Learning Center (TLC) by the Purdue Fort Wayne Foundation last year is not directly related to the university's CFI rating. Likewise, the CFI rating has no direct impact on university travel funding or research funding.

The funds from the PFW Foundation's sale of The Learning Center (TLC) to Milestone last year are still being held within the PFW Foundation, as that property was owned by the Foundation, not the university. Those funds represent a portion of the Foundation's unrestricted funds.

With regard to a listing of programs the Foundation supports, the Foundation is currently supporting the university through an annual operating distribution and reviews and funds other requests on an as-received basis. The Foundation's most significant support for the university has been through the ownership and management of property around the PFW campus that have allowed projects like The Trace student housing complex to come to fruition.

The Foundation makes its investment decisions based on projects and opportunities that will have the greatest impact on the greatest number of students and employees.

Our understanding is that the former TLC property was not resold, but that Milestone was bought out by another company and that the local operation has not changed. Regardless, this would have no bearing on Purdue Fort Wayne or the PFW Foundation, as neither has a role in the operations, funding, or policies of the facility.

There are a number of childcare resources that are available for students and employees. As a result of robust conversations and invaluable input and assistance of the URAC subcommittee last year, numerous childcare resources were identified and coalesced to better serve our students and employees.

The Office of Human Resources maintains a comprehensive inventory of childcare resources, including grant opportunities, that are available to support our students and employees. (See attached listing of those resources.)

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## Purdue Fort Wayne Childcare Resource List

### Childcare Assistance Program

To help make quality childcare more affordable for faculty and staff, the Patty Jischke Child Care Endowment and Purdue University offer the Child Care Tuition Assistance Program. If funds are available, the application window opens in August annually.

In order to apply, employees must be in a benefits eligible position within Purdue's faculty and staff, have at least one child enrolled in a level 3 or 4 Paths to Quality facility or West Lafayette's Purdue Childcare Center and meet financial criteria, spending or anticipated spending of at least 12 percent of the family's combined salary on childcare. Those not meeting financial criteria but presenting a financial need can still complete an application to be considered. If awarded, the scholarship is a one time payment and can be used for childcare expenses in the year in which the scholarship is paid.

More information regarding the childcare assistance scholarship, including application details and FAQs, can be found on the [program's website](#).

### Early Learning Marketplace

The Early Learning Marketplace, <https://theearlylearningmarketplace.org/families/>, helps families find child care and child care resources. Families can search for programs nearby and use filters to narrow results based on their needs. A quick search shows almost 100 results near the Purdue Fort Wayne campus and over 300 in the Fort Wayne area.

### Indiana Office of Early Childhood and Out of School Learning

The Office of Early Childhood and Out of School Learning oversees all childcare licensing, the Paths to Quality rating system and the state's pre-K programs, On My Way Pre-K and The Early Education Matching Grant. More information on these programs can be found at:

<https://www.in.gov/fssa/carefinder/index.html>.

### Paths to QUALITY

Paths to QUALITY™ is Indiana's voluntary quality rating and improvement system for early care and education. The system provides a simple system to help you identify the level of care a program offers, from basic health and safety standards at Level 1 to the highest standards for early care and education with National Accreditation at Level 4. All programs participating in

Paths to QUALITY™ have made a voluntary commitment to improve the quality of childcare and early education they provided, meet standards designed to support children’s healthy growth and development, are visited annually and receive coaching and incentives as they advance and maintain their level.

<https://www.in.gov/fssa/pathstoquality/index.html>

Level 3 or 4 Paths to Quality Providers nearby campus (updated list 2/2/26):

MOO MOO'S TOO

46805 (.09 mi)

260-515-4097

PTQ Level: 3

BABYSISTER'S CHILDCARE

46805 (1.2 mi)

260-203-9330

PTQ Level: 4

EARLY CHILDHOOD ALLIANCE

2125 BEACON ST

FT WAYNE, IN 46805 (1.3 mi)

260-399-2331

PTQ Level: 3

NORTHCREST ELEMENTARY PRESCHOOL

5301 ARCHWOOD LANE (A)

FORT WAYNE, IN 46825 (1.3 mi)

260-467-5450

PTQ Level: 4

KIMBROUGH EARLY LEARNING CENTER

3320 N. CLINTON STREET

FT. WAYNE, IN 46805 (1.3 mi)

260-483-2100

PTQ Level: 3

BRENTWOOD ELEMENTARY PRESCHOOL

3710 STAFFORD DR. (A)

FORT WAYNE, IN 46805 (1.4 mi)

260-467-6755

PTQ Level: 4

FOREST PARK ELEMENTARY PRESCHOOL

2004 ALABAMA AVE

FORT WAYNE, IN 46805 (1.4 mi)

260-467-6850

PTQ Level: 4

SAFIYA CHILD CARE

46815 (1.5 mi)

646-833-9308

PTQ Level: 3

HARRIS TITLE I PRE-K

4501 THORNGATE DRIVE (B)

FORT WAYNE, IN 46835 (1.6 mi)

260-467-6357

PTQ Level: 4

GOOD SHEPHERD PRESCHOOL

4700 VANCE AVENUE

FORT WAYNE, IN 46815 (1.7 mi)

260-483-6454

PTQ Level: 3

CRESCENT AVENUE WEEKDAY SCHOOL

1232 CRESCENT AVENUE

FORT WAYNE, IN 46805 (1.8 mi)

260-423-4718

PTQ Level: 4

LITTLE THINKERS SCHOOL OF EARLY LEARNING

2306 NORTH CLINTON STREET

FORT WAYNE, IN 46805 (1.9 mi)

260-298-9625

PTQ Level: 3

HOLLAND ELEMENTARY PRE-K

7000 RED HAW DRIVE

FORT WAYNE, IN 46825 (2 mi)

260-467-6357

PTQ Level: 4

THE LEARNING CENTER ACADEMY LLC  
2041 REED ROAD  
FORT WAYNE, IN 46815 (2 mi)  
337-254-8838  
PTQ Level: 3

TERRI BRATTON  
46815 (2.2 mi)  
260-486-7180  
PTQ Level: 3

KING'S KIDZ LEARNING PLACE  
46815 (2.3 mi)  
260-418-7153  
PTQ Level: 3

FRANKE PARK ELEMENTARY PRESCHOOL  
828 MILDRED AVE (A)  
FORT WAYNE, IN 46808 (2.3 mi)  
260-467-6925  
PTQ Level: 4

BRIGHTPOINT HEAD START AT EAST WAYNE  
825 E FRANCIS ST  
FORT WAYNE, IN 46803 (2.5 mi)  
260-422-6503  
PTQ Level: 4

SUMMER'S CHILDCARE  
46808 (2.6 mi)  
260-418-1292  
PTQ Level: 4

FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD/CORNERSTONE DAYCARE LEARNING CENTER  
1400 WEST WASHINGTON CENTER ROAD  
FORT WAYNE, IN 46825 (2.6 mi)  
260-489-3737  
PTQ Level: 3

ALL GODS CHILDREN DAYCARE CENTER  
6227 LANDMARK DR  
FORT WAYNE, IN 46815 (2.6 mi)  
260-426-0204  
PTQ Level: 3

IN HIS HANDS CHILD CARE  
46819 (2.8 mi)  
260-387-5611  
PTQ Level: 3

HALEY TITLE I PRE-K  
2201 MAPLECREST ROAD (B)  
FORT WAYNE, IN 46815 (2.8 mi)  
260-467-6357  
PTQ Level: 4

MICHELE COLLINS-THOMAS  
46803 (2.8 mi)  
260-267-9475  
PTQ Level: 3

MELISSA'S HOUSE  
46815 (2.9 mi)  
260-267-1322  
PTQ Level: 3

ST. JOSEPH CENTRAL PRE-K  
6341 ST. JOE CENTER ROAD  
FORT WAYNE, IN 46835 (3 mi)  
260-467-6357  
PTQ Level: 4

SOUTHERN COMFORT DAYCARE  
46825 (3.2 mi)  
260-409-0972  
PTQ Level: 3

FORT WAYNE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS LLC  
8766 COLDWATER ROAD

FORT WAYNE, IN 46825 (3.4 mi)  
260-207-4044  
PTQ Level: 4

WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY PRESCHOOL  
1015 W WASHINGTON BLVD (A)  
FORT WAYNE, IN 46802 (3.4 mi)  
260-467-8150  
PTQ Level: 4

GRANDMA LUE'S LIL' ANGELS  
46815 (3.4 mi)  
260-749-8256  
PTQ Level: 3

BRIGHT MINDS EARLY LEARNING CENTER  
46818 (3.7 mi)  
260-888-4514  
PTQ Level: 3

JENNIFER KUHNLE  
46835 (3.9 mi)  
260-804-3330  
PTQ Level: 3

ARLINGTON PRE-K  
8118 ST. JOE CENTER ROAD (C)  
FORT WAYNE, IN 46835 (4.1 mi)  
260-467-6357  
PTQ Level: 4

KIDDIE PREP SCHOOL  
8611 MAYHEW ROAD  
FORT WAYNE, IN 46835 (4.1 mi)  
260-485-7951  
PTQ Level: 4

KINDER CARE LEARNING CENTER  
2008 E DUPONT RD

FORT WAYNE, IN 46825 (4.4 mi)  
260-755-2905  
PTQ Level: 4

WASHINGTON CENTER TITLE I PRE-K  
1936 W. WALLEN ROAD (B)  
FORT WAYNE, IN 46818 (4.5 mi)  
260-467-6357  
PTQ Level: 4

### Childcare Referrals

Purdue University employees can call a designated employee-only childcare referral phone line. A referral specialist with **Indiana Association for Child Care Resource and Referral** (<https://www.thechildcareresourcenetwork.org/>) will provide at least three options for your family to choose from based on your criteria. Employees will then receive referral profiles and consumer education information via email or mail.

Enhanced referrals by the Indiana Association for Child Care Resource and Referral are recommended for families needing special need care or infant/toddler care but are available to any family. These more in-depth referrals include a personal interview to assist in identifying needs and preferences of the family. Once the specialist understands the family's needs, they will screen childcare options for the family, narrowing the options, including determining if there are enrollment openings. The family will then receive the options as well as consumer education information to make the final decision. Continued follow-up consultations by the referral specialist are also included. This enhanced referral process costs the employee \$150.

To get started with a referral or enhanced referral, call **800-299-1627, ext. 275**.