



Help Make Every Child One Of Pennsylvania's Top Economic Priorities.

Pennsylvania Early Learning Investment Commission

Caring Business Leaders Supporting Quality Early Childhood Education

As future beneficiaries of a capable and skilled workforce, the Pennsylvania business community has a vested interest in the educational development of our children. What better way to prepare our business and civic leaders of tomorrow by investing in quality early childhood education programs and services today?

Our Goal

We are working to build a permanent sustainable network of business champions who understand the solid connection between quality early childhood experiences and a strong Pennsylvania economy. We are also building a coalition of supporters who effectively communicate this message to other business leaders, members of business-related groups, and policy-makers.

Your Investment Helps Save Future Tax Dollars By:

 Increasing Graduation Rates

 Cutting Crime

 Reducing Welfare Costs

By investing in our youngest children now – when those investments will yield the highest societal returns – we can build the workforce we need to keep America competitive in the years ahead.

By age 5, more than 90 percent of the foundation for communications, critical thinking, problem-solving and teamwork is developed. These are the base learning skills necessary for the future educational success of our children. *[Harvard]*

Research shows that students who lack literacy and language skills by third grade don't catch up.

Until third grade, children are learning to read; from third grade on, they read to learn.
[Harvard]

Did You Know?

A 35-year study of the Perry Preschool Program found that high-quality early childhood programs cut crime, welfare, remedial education and other costs so much that **it saved taxpayers more than \$16 for every \$1 invested.** [Heckman]

The rate of return for quality early childhood education is 10 percent per year. An \$8,000 investment at birth brings nearly an \$800,000 return over the child's life; an **ROI of greater than 10:1.** [Heckman]

Children who participate in quality early education programs:

- Show reductions in grade retention and special education placement.
- Attain greater education levels, high school graduation rates and rates of college attendance.
- Earn higher lifetime salaries and benefits.
- Are less likely to pursue unhealthy behaviors (such as teen pregnancy or substance abuse).
- Are less likely to engage in crime or to rely on public assistance.

Achieving a globally competitive work force means that early education must be a priority now. Unfortunately, we are not on track to succeed:

- By the time low-income children get to school and start to learn to read, they're already at an enormous disadvantage, often 12-18 months behind their peers with a large gap to overcome. (Hart & Risley)
- The majority of 4th and 8th graders are not proficient in both math and reading in any state. Most children reading well below grade level at the end of fourth grade will not graduate from high school. (ReadyNation)
- One out of five of our commonwealth's children do not graduate from high school. (PA Dept. of Education)
- Four out of five entering the work force do not have the job skills that they need to succeed. (Heckman)

“The foundation of skills required to grow a team-capable, job-ready workforce is built in the earliest years of life – between birth and age 5 – yet we do not give our young children the early supports they need to get there.” [Rob Dugger, Advisory Board Chair, ReadyNation]

As a Concerned Business Leader, What Can You Do?

Whether you define success for Pennsylvania as a stronger economy, reduced crime, successful students, or thriving communities, early education is key. As a business leader, your voice is vital to encourage early childhood investments in this time of difficult budgetary decisions. Together, with your help, we will:

- Increase awareness that quality childhood experiences are directly related to Pennsylvania's economic future.
- Build a public/private sector partnership of leaders to become an advocate for quality early childhood investment.
- Increase the number of children served through evidence-based early childhood programs and services.



For ways you can help and more information, please contact:

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