



Our Kids Deserve a **Strong Start**



Kentucky's commitment to early childhood opportunities

Early childhood opportunities have a tremendous impact on Kentucky's work force – both short-term and long-term.

With one of the lowest labor participation rates in the country, Kentucky can't expand its work force if parents aren't working because they have nowhere safe and dependable to take their children during the day.

The workers of tomorrow won't be equipped to compete for jobs if they don't have a strong start for learning. Kentucky lacks skilled workers ready to compete in a complex, technology-driven economy. There are only **26,220** job seekers for the **134,800** jobs available statewide. By 2022, the number of jobs available will grow to **415,041**.

Kentucky loses **\$939 million** in economic activity because of parents kept out of the work force by child-care costs. We can recoup that loss by investing in all our children to give them early learning opportunities that result in a strong start and an even stronger finish.



Children who receive quality early childhood education services before age 5 are more likely to succeed in grade school, high school and beyond. It is **THE** foundation for future academic success.

12.6%

of Kentucky families with young children have difficulty holding down a job because of a lack of affordable child care



Children who participate in high-quality preschool programs are **40%** less likely to drop out of school and **50%** less likely to be placed in special education.



A 2018 business survey showed more than half of Kentucky employers struggle to find workers with the skills they need.



PRICHARD COMMITTEE FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

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