



Our Kids Deserve a **Strong Start**



Kentucky's commitment to early childhood opportunities

It's **THE** foundation for future academic success.

Kentucky can't have a solid foundation for academic success if we don't expand our investment in early childhood learning opportunities for all our kids.

Kentucky has actually lost ground in the last decade – falling from **24th** in preschool enrollment of 3- and 4-year-olds in 2008 to **41st** in 2018.

It's no wonder that Kentuckians from all walks of life don't feel optimistic about education in our state – **40%** say the quality of education across the state has gotten worse, and **38%** think their own schools are worse.

When **50%** of our children enter kindergarten not ready to learn, they are behind before they set foot in school.



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.



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.



"Education is like a pyramid: **Each level rests on what came before. Any weakness in a child's educational development jeopardizes all that follows, and gains made at an early age continue to benefit the child in future years.**" -- American Association of State Colleges and Universities report



**PRICHARD COMMITTEE
FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE**

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