



Our Kids Deserve a **Strong Start**



Kentucky's commitment to early childhood opportunities

The earlier the investment, the greater the return.

Study after study shows that the highest rate of economic return comes from the **earliest** investments in children.

Children who receive education services before age 5 are more likely to succeed in grade school, high school and beyond. Increasing state investment for child care and preschool ensures that all Kentucky children are given this advantage and opportunity for a strong start.

The benefits to all children – and to Kentucky as a whole – are maximized by investing early, so they can build skill upon skill. The result is greater success for children, greater productivity in their community and a reduction in future social service spending.



Expanded early childhood education would return \$5 in public and private benefits for every \$1 invested.

KENTUCKY LOSES

\$939 million

in economic activity because of **parents kept out of the work force** by child-care costs.



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.



PRICHARD COMMITTEE FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

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