

"Quality pre-k is an important early childhood education and development issue, but it is also a critical workforce issue. That is why our Chamber supports these investments. We know that the return on today's investments in pre-k will be a stronger workforce in the future."

Dave Adkisson
President & CEO
Kentucky Chamber of Commerce



Early Action Pays Off Today and Tomorrow

As in business, investing early in our workforce pipeline ensures the best outcomes.

We can reverse current workforce and education trends. The research is clear: High-quality early childhood programs can have a significant short- and long-term impact on children's lifelong success and on our economy.

The savings start immediately. Giving young children a good start reduces health problems and grade retention and special education costs in the first few years of school.

In addition, because early childhood spending tends to be local, and child care and pre-kindergarten professionals generally spend rather than save most of their earnings, states generate roughly \$2 in new local spending for each federal child care dollar spent.⁹

And benefits accrue over the long term. One study found that investing just \$6,692 in quality pre-k for at-risk children substantially improved outcomes such as **education levels, home ownership and salary** while reducing negative behaviors, including substance abuse and crime. The net result was a lifetime societal benefit of up to \$69,937—an ROI of greater than 10:1.¹⁰

For these reasons the Institute for a Competitive Workforce (ICW), a 501(c)3 nonprofit affiliate of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, recommends:

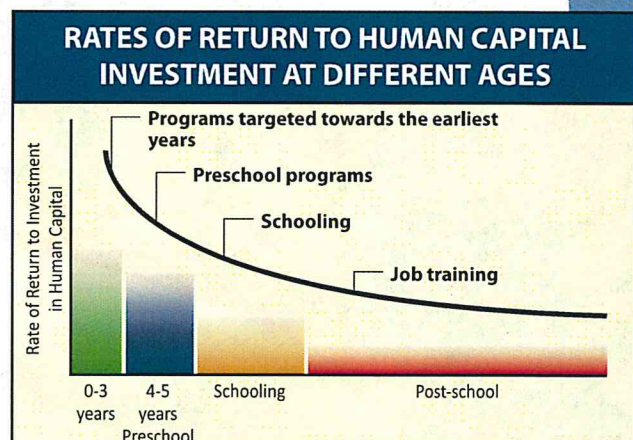
- Supporting and directing the expansion of **high-quality programs** to serve young children's development and learning, including state-funded pre-k delivered in a variety of settings such as schools, child care centers and homes and Head Start agencies, with public funding targeted to low-income children first.
- Ensuring that early childhood educators have the **skills and knowledge** necessary to do the job right.
- Supporting **parental choice** by developing a mix of public, private and nonprofit programs that can meet a variety of needs.



"Investing in the earliest years of life is the first step in preparing a workforce that can meet the demands of the 21st century."

Ann Cramer
Director, Americas
IBM Corporate Citizenship and Corporate Affairs

- Integrating the delivery of **health and education services** to children from before birth to age five.
- Making the **best use of existing resources** by coordinating local, state and federal efforts.



SOURCE: J.J. Heckman, "Skill formation and the economics of investing in disadvantaged children." *Science*, 312(5782):1900-2, (June 2006).

- Integrating and aligning early learning programs with elementary and secondary schools to create a seamless and efficient education system.
- Increasing the availability of **quality child care programs** that cover parents' full work day.
- Building an **evidence-based case** for change by collecting data and conducting the research needed to identify best practices, assess systems performance and report results to the public.