

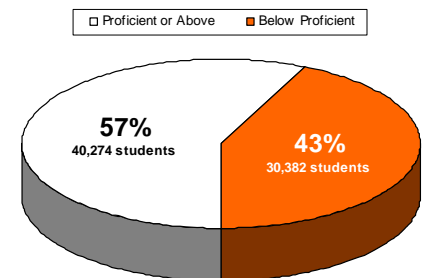
Invest in High-Quality Early Education and Care

A powerful tool for closing the achievement gap

In Massachusetts, 43% of third grade students – **and nearly two-thirds of all low-income students** – do not read at grade level. Research shows that students who struggle early in school are far less likely to graduate from high-school, become effective citizens, and develop skills essential for contributing to the 21st century economy. High-quality early education is one of the few educational strategies with a quantifiable impact on improving school preparedness and later academic achievement. Low-income children who participate in high-quality early education programs are:

- 40% less likely to need special education or be held back a grade;
- 30% more likely to graduate from high school; and
- Twice as likely to go to college.

Third Grade Reading Proficiency in Massachusetts, 2009 MCAS



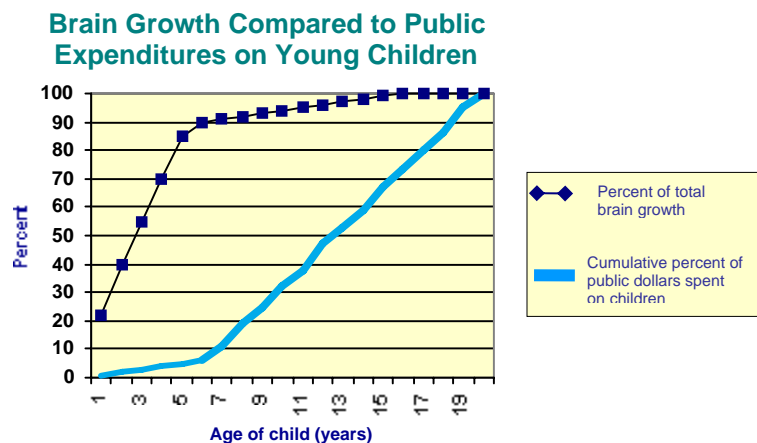
An effective strategy for improving school performance

Experts agree that high-quality early education improves all children’s cognitive development and leads to higher academic achievement. Research confirms the following benefits:

- Improved school readiness
- Increased academic achievement
- Reduced reliance on special education
- Increased standardized test scores
- Fewer high school dropouts
- Greater college attendance

An extraordinary return on taxpayers’ investment

Higher-achieving students and more successful adults reduce costs in education, health care and other public service sectors while generating new revenue sources. Nobel Prize-winning economist James Heckman estimates **high-quality early education yields a 10% return on investment**. Unfortunately, the majority of our nation’s investments in children start too late:



Sources: Public expenditures: RAND analysis of Table 1 in R. Haveman and B. Wolfe, "The Determinants of Children's Attainments: A Review of Methods and Findings," *Journal of Economic Literature*, Vol. 33, December 1995. Brain growth: Figure 2-4 in Purves, *Body and Brain*, Harvard University Press 1998, adapted from D.W. Thompson, *On Growth and Form*, Cambridge University Press.

Invest in High-Quality Early Education and Care Programs

Universal Pre-Kindergarten Grant (UPK) Program (3000-5075)

To improve the quality of pre-kindergarten programs for children age two years and nine months to kindergarten eligibility, delivered through a mixed system of public and private providers. In FY10, \$8 million in total funding provided grants to over 293 early education programs serving 6,600 children in 97 cities and towns for professional development and training, curricula and materials, accreditation support, assessment training and other quality improvements.

- **Early Education for All (EEA) Campaign recommendation: \$9 million (\$1 million increase)**
- matches recommendation for the UPK grant program in Governor Patrick's FY11 budget

Help Programs Reach Quality Standards

Quality Supports (3000-6000)

For professional development grants and to assist programs in reaching accreditation standards established under the UPK program and consistent with the *Early Childhood Program Standards for Three and Four Year Olds* and *Guidelines for Preschool Learning Experiences*. Accreditation is a nationally-recognized standard for program quality, but only 32% of public school preschools, 35% of center-based programs and 1% of family child care providers in Massachusetts are accredited.

- **EEA recommendation: \$4.43 million**

Build a Highly Educated and Well-Trained Early Education Workforce

Research shows that teacher education and training are key determinants of early education program quality. Yet, in Massachusetts, only 30% of center-based teachers and 18% of family child care providers have a Bachelor's degree or higher.

Early Childhood Educators Scholarship Program (in 7070-0065)

Provides tuition assistance to currently employed early educators to pursue Associates' or Bachelor's degrees in exchange for continued employment in the field. Since FY06, this program has provided over 3,300 scholarships to early educators at 43 public and private colleges and universities across Massachusetts.

- **EEA recommendation: \$3.2 million earmark**

Build a Strong System for Young Children and Families

Access Management (3000-2000)

For the coordination of early education and care programs and services.

- **EEA recommendation: \$6.36**

Income Eligible (3000-4060)

For the early education and care and out-of-school time services for low-income children qualifying for state aid.

- **EEA recommendation: \$273.57**

Head Start (3000-5000)

For grants to Head Start programs, provided that funds from this item may be expended on Early Head Start programs.

- **EEA recommendation: \$8 million**

Mental Health (3000-6075)

For early childhood mental health services in early education and care programs.

- **EEA recommendation: \$1.5 million**

Services for Infants and Parents (3000-7050)

For grants to provide coordinated family and community engagement services including: early literacy activities, family education and engagement initiatives, coordination of services among community-based programs, collaborative activities with public schools, and home-based parenting, family literacy, and school readiness programs.

- **EEA recommendation: \$17.03 million**

Kindergarten Expansion Grants (7030-1002)

Provides grants to communities for the expansion and quality enhancement of full-day kindergarten (FDK) programs. FDK improves learning in reading and math, aids children's social development and is widely supported by the public.

- **EEA recommendation: \$25.95 million**