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Too few of Ohio’s 0-5 year olds have access to early childhood experiences.

ONLY 50.6% OF THOSE ELIGIBLE for a publicly-funded early childhood program (i.e. child care, public preschool, evidence-based home visiting, Head Start) are receiving services.

Experts conclude that when investments are made in high-quality early childhood education programs for our most at-risk kids within their first 5 years of life, they are:

More likely to...
• Be kindergarten ready.
• Graduate high school.
• Have higher earnings and better health.

Less likely to...
• Be held back a grade.
• Be reliant on public assistance.
• Engage in criminal behavior.

Providing high-quality early childhood education for Ohio’s youngest learners during the most critical period of their development yields the greatest return on public investment upwards of 13%.

The earlier we invest, the higher the return and the better we can leverage dollars spent later.

Despite the indisputable research, Ohio is not investing enough in programs targeted at our youngest, most at-risk learners. Only 6.3% of Ohio’s education budget is spent on children under 5—the most critical period of development that prepares kids for success in school and beyond.

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**Kids who start behind often STAY behind.**

Furthermore, a consistent 30-point gap persists between the percentage of disadvantaged versus non-disadvantaged students performing at grade level from kindergarten through the start of high school. The gap between black and white students starts at a 23-point difference in the percentage of students prepared to enter kindergarten. A few years later, that gap has grown to a 33-point gap in Third Grade Reading performance—and by the time kids reach 8th grade, there is a 36-point difference in the percent of students performing at grade level for the Eighth Grade Math assessment. These assessments are both strong predictors of college readiness and career success.

**Current investments do not reflect what we know about the brain science of early development.**

Despite the indisputable research, Ohio is not investing enough in programs targeted at our youngest, most at-risk learners. Only 6.3% of Ohio’s education budget is spent on children under 5—the most critical period of development that prepares kids for success in school and beyond.

**Extensive research shows we must reach kids long before kindergarten.**

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Learn More: www.GroundworkOhio.org @GroundworkOhio
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_Akron Beacon Journal Editorial Board_

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Ohio’s business leaders understand the importance of investing in early learning.

The research and science are clear: a child’s physical, social-emotional, and cognitive development are inextricably intertwined. Investing in both high-quality early learning and healthcare for Ohio’s most at-risk kids gives them the opportunity to reach their full potential.”

_Deborah Feldman, Dayton Children’s Hospital_

By prioritizing early childhood education, making education more affordable, accessible, and building in-school support programs, Ohio’s governor will put Columbus back on the path to prosperity.”

_Rick Kurtz, Ricart Automotive Group_

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