

Ready for School

Powered by the Children's Institute

2013 Ready for School Agenda

Ready for School will continue to advocate for wise investments in high-quality early learning. We believe the full benefit of early investments will be realized only when our early learning and K-12 systems are connected.

- * Ready for School is asking the legislature to fund a \$10 million competitive Early Learning Strategic Grants fund. This seed fund would support the schools and districts leading the way toward an aligned and integrated learning continuum.
- * Ready for School is also supporting the governor's recommended budget for increased investments in early learning. Forty-eight million dollars (\$48 million) in new funding for early childhood is a significant and wise investment.
- * We also stand by the consolidation of early childhood programs in an Early Learning Division within the Department of Education. This is a major step forward and should strengthen governance of Oregon's early learning system.

Early Investments are Wise Investments

Only 66 percent of Oregon's high school seniors graduate in four years.

Research has shown repeatedly that the most cost-effective way to improve graduation rates is to stop this achievement gap before it starts and reach children at an early age—well before they attend kindergarten.

Better prepared kids means a more effective classroom environment for both teachers and students. Early investments in education deliver a return for the public by creating a more productive workforce and reducing social spending.

We've Made It Our Business — to Give Oregon's Kids a Better Start.

We're improving the lives of Oregon's children and building a stronger economy with wise public investments in high-quality early learning programs. Make it your business, too!

About Ready for School

Ready for School is a group of business and community leaders and former elected officials from around the state who contribute their time and expertise to ensure all children in Oregon arrive at school ready for success.

We believe that a sound foundational investment in early learning must be an essential part of Oregon's effort to close the achievement gap and reach the 40-40-20 vision, where 40 percent of Oregon graduates receive a four-year degree, 40 percent a two-year degree, and 20 percent a high school diploma.

We are committed to ensuring that Oregon is wise in its investments and holds itself accountable for achieving this goal.

A Track Record of Success

Ready for School is well-established as a leader in advocating for investment in early learning and supporting change to make our early learning system effective and accountable.

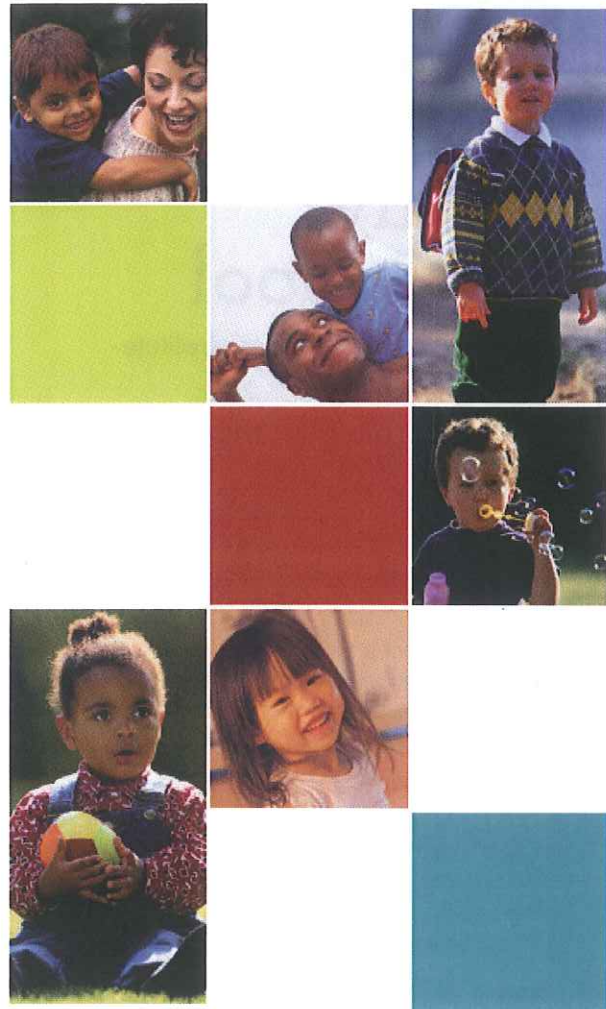
Key accomplishments include:

- * In 2007, Ready for School helped secure an additional \$39 million for Oregon Head Start Prekindergarten—a change that resulted in 3,000 additional children enrolling in Head Start each year.
- * In 2010, Ready for School successfully advocated for a first-time state investment of \$1 million in Early Head Start.
- * Ready for School fought hard for SB 909 in 2011 and HB 4165 in 2012, legislation that has initiated the reform of the early learning system in Oregon.

STATEWIDE LEADERS PANEL

- Isaac Regenstreif, Chair** – IHR Consulting, LLC
- Victor Atiyeh** – Former Governor, State of Oregon
- Julia Brim-Edwards** – Nike
- Rich Brown** – Bank of America
- Duncan Campbell** – The Campbell Group
- Theressa Davis** – Comcast Cable
- Gun Denhart** – Business and Civic Leader
- Carol Dillin** – Portland General Electric
- Pat Egan** – PacifiCorp
- Lori Flexer** – Ferguson Wellman Capital Management
- Don Frisbee** – Business and Civic Leader
- Ray Guenther** – Business and Civic Leader
- Pastor W.G. Hardy** – Highland United Church of Christ
- Lyn Hennion** – Umpqua Investments, Inc.
- Teresa Hogue** – Cascade Center for Community Governance
- Al Jubitz** – Business and Civic Leader
- Ray Jubitz** – Jubitz Family Foundation
- Gregg Kantor** – NW Natural
- Irving Levin** – Genesis Financial Solutions
- Pat McCormick** – AM:PM PR
- Barbara Roberts** – Former Governor, State of Oregon
- Linda Shelk** – Civic Leader
- John Sweet** – Sause Brothers Ocean Towing Company
- John Tapogna** – ECONorthwest
- Chris Tebben** – Grantmakers for Education
- Chip Terhune** – Schnitzer Steel
- Bill Thorndike** – Medford Fabrication
- Ken Thrasher** – Compli
- Jim Torrey** – Business and Civic Leader
- Kerry Tymchuk** – Oregon Historical Society
- Susan Walsh** – The Campbell Foundation
- Donald Washburn** – Business and Civic Leader
- Janet Webster** – Hatfield Science Center
- Gary Withers** – Concordia University
- Dick Withnell** – Withnell Motor Company
- Julie Young** – Civic Leader

- Elise Brown** – Campaign Manager
- Swati Adarkar** – President & CEO, Children's Institute



Ready for School is a statewide campaign to improve the lives of Oregon's children and build a stronger economy with wise investments in high-quality early childhood programs. The campaign is led by a coalition of top business and community leaders who have made it their business to better prepare at-risk children for success in school and life. The campaign is informed by a growing body of social, scientific and economic research compiled and presented by the Children's Institute.



MAKE IT YOUR BUSINESS

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