



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.

FACT SHEET

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
Lynn Lundquist, Vice Chair – Business and Government Leader
Victor Atiyeh – Former Governor, State of Oregon
Julia Brim-Edwards – Nike
Rich Brown – Bank of America
Duncan Campbell – The Campbell Group
Theresa 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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