



Ready for School

Powered by the Children's Institute

Third-Grade Success for Oregon's Children Means Starting Early

The good news is that we know that students who read proficiently by 3rd grade are four times more likely to graduate high school. The troubling news is that Oregon has one of the most significant achievement gaps, and unacceptably low graduation and third-grade proficiency rates.

- Oregon's high school graduation rate was 69% for the class of 2013, among the worst rates in the country.
- Oregon is consistently in the bottom 25% nationally for reading proficiency at 4th grade (source: NAEP) and high school graduation rates.

How do we meet 40-40-20 education goals with these issues facing us? Research shows us that high-quality early learning closes the gap.

High-quality early learning programs designed to foster children's early development and learning to support school readiness can help close the achievement gap and improve school readiness and later educational and life outcomes. High-quality early learning programs include strong parent engagement and health and are connected to the early grades.

We have no time to lose.

- More than one-third of students do not meet third-grade reading benchmarks
- 50% of our youngest children are low income, a strong predictor for an achievement gap
- Too few have access to high-quality early learning

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.

2015 Ready for School Agenda

Get More Children Ready for Kindergarten

Serve more low-income children in high-quality early learning settings. Invest \$10 million to expand birth-to-3 evidence-based home visiting, invest \$30 million to expand high-quality preschool, and support legislation that defines high quality for preschool.

Make Kindergarten Count

Support full-day K and ensure kids get to school consistently by measuring and addressing chronic absence. Oregon's chronic absence rate is among the worst in the country.

Connect the Early Years to the Early Grades

Invest \$9 million to expand the Kindergarten Partnership & Innovation Fund and ensure early learning is sustained through third grade.

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.

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.

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.

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

STATEWIDE LEADERS PANEL

Isaac Regenstreif, Co-Chair – IHR Consulting, LLC
 Lyn Hennion, Co-Chair – Umpqua Investments, Inc.
 Julia Brim-Edwards – Nike
 Rich Brown – Bank of America
 Duncan Campbell – The Campbell Group
 Steve Corey – Corey, Byler & Rew, LLP
 Gun Denhart – Business and Civic Leader
 Carol Dillin – Portland General Electric
 Theresa Dulaney – Comcast Cable
 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
 Teresa Hogue – Cascade Center for Community Governance
 Al Jubitz – Business and Civic Leader
 Ray Jubitz – Jubitz Family Foundation
 Gregg Kantor – NW Natural
 Ted Kulongoski – Former Governor, State of Oregon
 Irving Levin – Genesis Financial Solutions
 Pat McCormick – AM:PM PR
 Sue Miller – Civic Leader
 Barbara Roberts – Former Governor, State of Oregon
 George Russell – George Russell & Associates
 Linda Shelk – Civic Leader
 Lane Shetterly – Shetterly Irick and Ozias, Attorneys at Law
 Patsy Smullin – California Oregon Broadcasting, Inc.
 John Sweet – Sause Brothers Ocean Towing Company
 John Tapogna – ECONorthwest
 Chris Tebben – Sapient Solutions, LLC
 Chip Terhune – Cambia Health Solutions
 Bill Thorndike – Medford Fabrication
 Ken Thrasher – Compli
 Jim Torrey – Business and Civic Leader
 Kerry Tymchuk – Oregon Historical Society
 Anthony Veliz – Izo, Inc.
 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

Richard C. Alexander – Founding Chair, 2005-11 (deceased)
 Lynn Lundquist – Member, 2005-11, Co-Chair 2011-13 (deceased)



MAKE IT YOUR BUSINESS



**Children's
Institute**

Ready for School is a statewide campaign to improve the lives of Oregon's children and build a stronger economy. The campaign is led by a collation 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.