

Some misperceptions exist surrounding lowering the compulsory age:

- European nations enroll their children in elementary school much later than children in Oregon.
- There are no studies that show that starting school at an earlier age serves no long-term benefits.
- Children are not always ready to start school at six years old.

Most students are enrolled by six years of age. **SB 321 has been amended to allow attendance at six years old instead of five years old.**

#### **European Commission on Education and Training (2014/2015)**

This 2014/2015 Education and Training report focused on Compulsory Education in Europe and found that in **42 European nations, 66% started school at age six, 40% started at age 5 and under, and only 16% of these nations started children at seven years old.**

#### **Highscope Perry Preschool Study Through Age 40 (2005)**

Randomly divided 123 children born in poverty and at high risk aged three and four years old were placed into a high quality early education program and a comparison group who received no early childhood education program. The children were then interviewed at age 40.

The study found that the adults who were placed in the high quality early education program had:

- Higher earnings
- Were more likely to hold a job
- Had committed fewer crimes
- Were more likely to have graduated from high school than students who did not start their education earlier.

#### **Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research (2014)**

Found that children who had been delayed toddler-age language development demonstrated poorer self-regulation and other "soft skills," including social skills and attention functions later in kindergarten. Having access to a diverse group of peers and active teachers provides children with the ability to develop these skills.

#### **European Journal on Psychology and Education (2013)**

Examined the relationship between children's motivation at 3 years old and how that affected their academic skills in kindergarten. Some parents are concerned that their child will burn out by starting school at a younger age, but "findings from these studies suggest that motivation is positively linked to academic achievement." Rather than burn out, the motivation that children have at a young age can help their success in school, which continues to motivate them to do well."

