



Ready  
for School

Powered by the Children's Institute

READY FOR SCHOOL • 2015

# Investing in preschool and changing lives

High-quality preschool works. It closes the opportunity gap and gets children ready for kindergarten and on track for 3rd grade success. The Children's Institute and Ready for School campaign are advocating for a \$30 million investment during the 2015-17 biennium to make high-quality preschool available to more children from low-income families – to prevent the achievement gap before it begins.

## Oregon is failing its youngest children

- Oregon is in the bottom quarter of all states nationally for access to preschool for 4-year-olds, enrolling only 10 percent.
- The Oregon Head Start Pre-K program has funding to serve only about 55 percent of eligible children.
- Seventy-two percent of 3- and 4-year-olds from low-income Oregon families – about 32,000 children – don't have access to high-quality preschool.

## We can improve Oregon preschool, and put children on track for success

This modest investment (in HB 5016), along with our proposed policy legislation (HB 3380), would:

- begin building a preschool system that aligns with Head Start but also allows for a mix of other providers;
- set quality standards, while ensuring preschool services are connected with Oregon's K-12 system;
- serve an additional 1,500 Oregon children each year, and be open to children from families who aren't eligible for Head Start services but also can't afford private preschool.

## Why invest?

A child's first eight years are critical in laying the foundation for his or her future success. And there is no greater return on investment in education than early learning.

- Research shows preschool provides benefits to society of roughly **\$8.60** for every **\$1** spent.
- Low-income children who attended high-quality preschool programs are **40 percent less likely** to need special education services or be held back a grade, **30 percent more likely** to finish high school and **twice as likely** to attend college.

**READY FOR SCHOOL 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)

**ENDORSEMENTS**

The following organizations support expanding access to high-quality preschool in Oregon:

