

**February 26, 2025**

**The case for  
Pre-K Programs  
for all children in Alaska**

---



**COALITION FOR  
EDUCATION EQUITY  
OF ALASKA**

# CEE's Mission

---

**Coalition for Education Equity** champions a quality, equitable and adequate public education for every Alaska child through:

- **Advocacy,**
- **Policy development and**
- **Legal action**

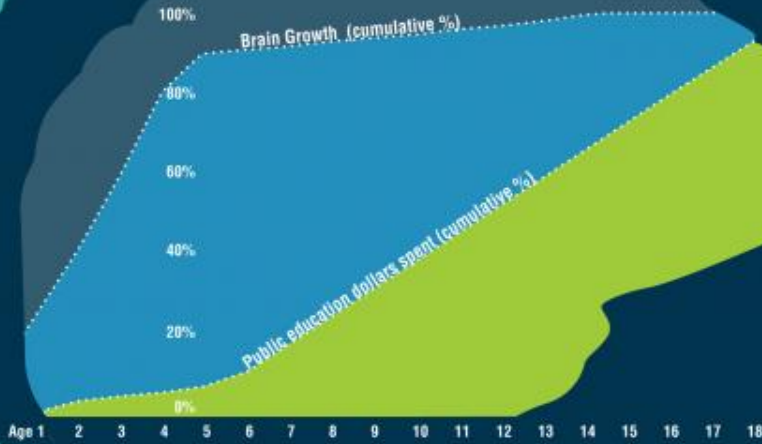
## **What is “adequate public education”?:**

An education that provides a child / young adult with the tools necessary for pursuing any path they desire after public school.



COALITION FOR  
EDUCATION EQUITY  
OF ALASKA

# Starting Smart



**85% of brain development occurs before the age of 5, but only 14% of public education dollars are spent on early childhood education in the U.S.**

Sources: America's Edge, Rand Corporation and the National Institute for Early Education Research

Every \$1 invested in early childhood education can save \$7 in the long-term through reduced costs associated with remedial education, criminal justice and welfare payments.



A recent report by *America's Edge* showed that for every \$1 invested in early education in New York State an additional \$1.86 is generated in economic activity. On Long Island, that number is \$1.92.



Data compiled by the Long Island Index, a project of the Rauch Foundation

Design: Amy Unikewicz/JellyFever

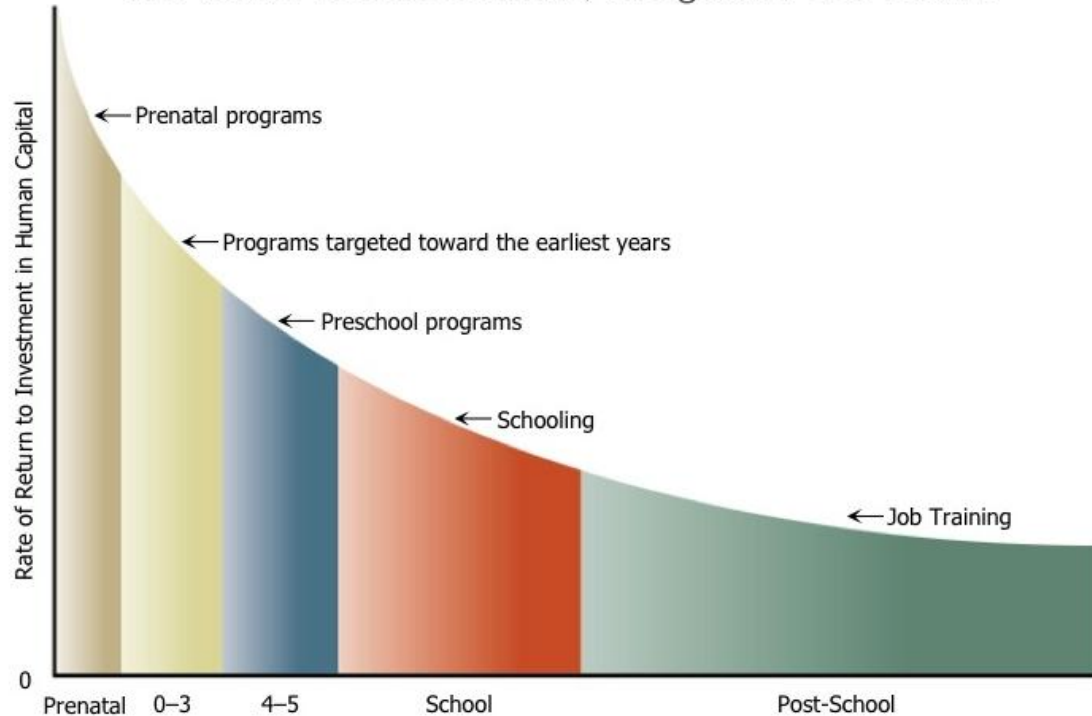


**COALITION FOR  
EDUCATION EQUITY  
OF ALASKA**

What do we know about the value of early learning?

## EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT IS A SMART INVESTMENT

The earlier the investment, the greater the return



Source: James Heckman, Nobel Laureate in Economics



COALITION FOR  
EDUCATION EQUITY  
OF ALASKA

# Lifelong Benefits

**Five more adults** would earn more than \$2,000/month by age 27



**Car ownership** would increase by

**37%**



**Home ownership** would increase by

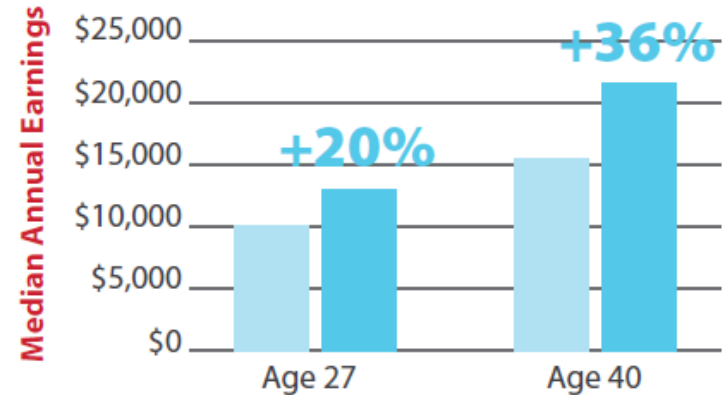
**32%**

**Twice as many men** would raise their own children



**46** Fewer total arrests by age 27 (2.3 per person)

**440** Fewer lifetime months spent in prison (22 per person)

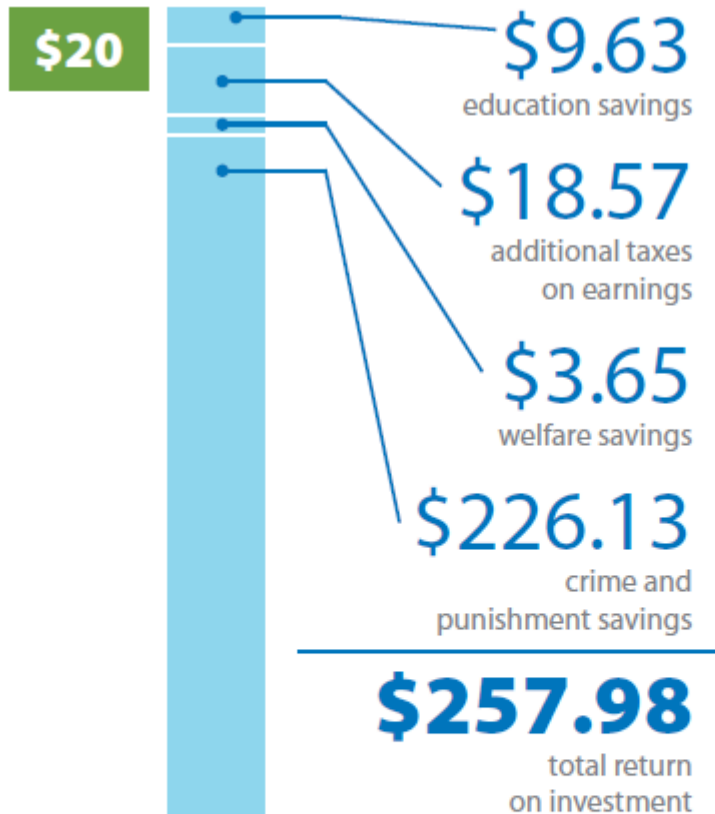


Source: Collaborative Communications Group, Inc.



**COALITION FOR  
EDUCATION EQUITY  
OF ALASKA**

# What's the return on **\$20** invested in early childhood education?



Participants in preschool programs earn **14%** more than they would have otherwise; additional lifetime earnings of **\$156,490**.

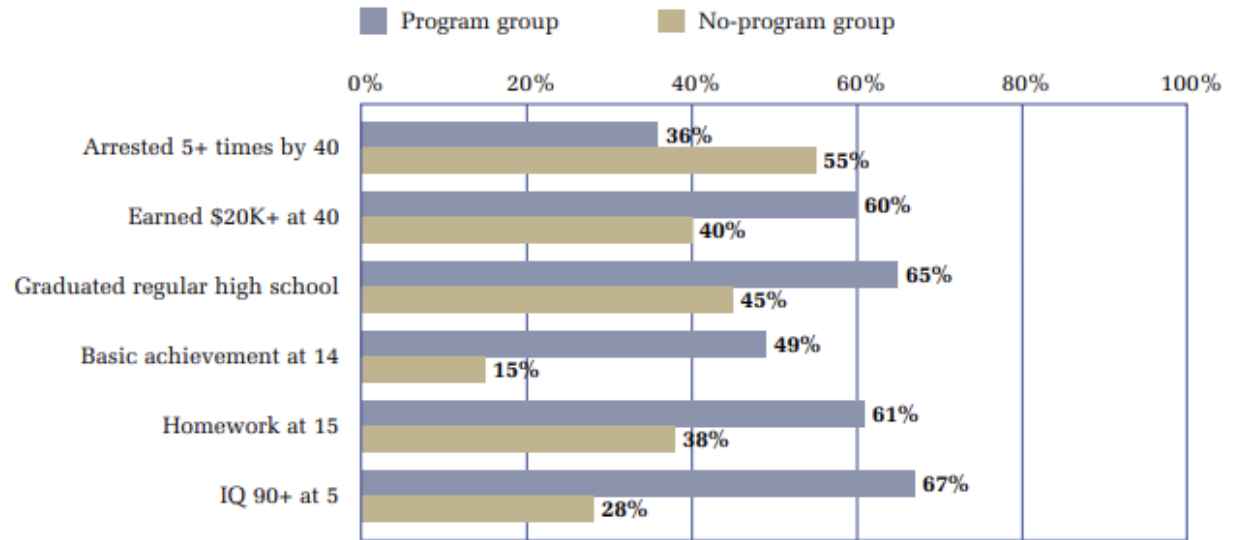
Source: *Lifetime effects: The High/Scope Perry Preschool study through age 40*.  
Ypsilanti: High/Scope Press, 2005.



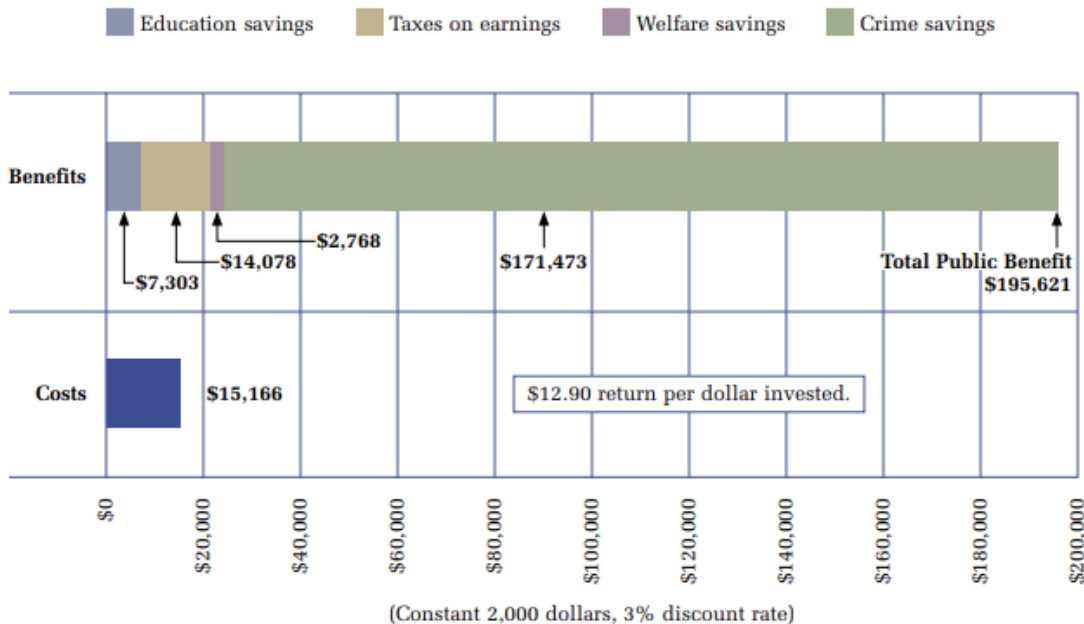
COALITION FOR  
EDUCATION EQUITY  
OF ALASKA

# Hope/Scope Perry Pre-school study

## Major Findings: High/Scope Perry Preschool Study at 40



## High/Scope Perry Preschool Program Public Costs and Benefits



**COALITION FOR  
EDUCATION EQUITY  
OF ALASKA**

## MORE BENEFITS

Enrolling a child in the New Haven Public School Universal Pre-K program raised parents' average earnings by \$5,461 per year, or 21.7 percent, during the one- or two-year period when the child is of pre-kindergarten age. These gains coincide with increases in hours worked: UPK enrollment allows parents to work 12.8 more hours per week in the year following enrollment.

## BOSTON PRE-K LOTTERY STUDY

"The combination of findings — that we *don't* see an impact on test scores, but we *do* see an impact on these behavioral outcomes and the likelihood of attending college — is consistent with this idea that there's some kind of behavioral or socio-emotional, non-cognitive impact from preschool," says Christopher Walters, an economist at UC Berkeley who co-authored the study

The growing evidence continues to show that preschool can permanently improve kids' lives — but not necessarily that it makes them smarter, the data indicates these kids are more disciplined and motivated, which is just as important (or perhaps even more important) for their future livelihoods as how well they perform on reading or math tests.



COALITION FOR  
EDUCATION EQUITY  
OF ALASKA



# Kindergarten Readiness

- **Districts administer the Alaska Developmental Profile (ADP) to all kindergarten students.**
- **The ADP is a tool based on multiple teacher observations recorded during the first four weeks of school.**
- **The ADP includes 13 sets of skills and behaviors (“goals”) in five domains.**



## Domain 5: Communication, Language and Literacy

Group	Count of Students with Ratings	Goal 9: Uses receptive communication skills	Goal 10: Uses expressive communication skills.	Goal 11: Demonstrates phonological awareness	Goal 12: Demonstrates awareness of print concepts.	Goal 13: Demonstrates knowledge of letters and symbols (alphabet knowledge)
Statewide 2024-2025	7831	54.53%	52.47%	37.72%	40.12%	42.96%
Statewide 2023-2024	8147	55.14%	53.57%	38.27%	41.3%	43.7%
Statewide 2022-2023	8565	56.98%	53.94%	39.46%	43.53%	45.13%



# MISSISSIPPI

Mississippi's growth is due to a wide host of policies that have been changed over the past decades: No Child Left Behind, the nationally aligned Mississippi College and Career Readiness Standards, new tests and a new accountability system, and the Literacy Based Promotion Act, among others. Most importantly, Mississippi has had a comprehensive approach to *improving* education in the state since 2012.

According to Ms. Grace Breazeale, Director of Research for Mississippi First, the best explanation for the upward trajectory of Mississippi's scores over the last two decades is the state's long-term commitment to increasing the rigor of state standards and aligning state testing and accountability systems to match that rigor.

Other policies and initiatives (pre-K, high-quality curriculum, the state instructional coaching model, educator preparation reform) as well as their stellar implementation have built on the foundation of these aligned systems for defining and measuring student achievement.



COALITION FOR  
EDUCATION EQUITY  
OF ALASKA

**On April 2, 2013, the Mississippi legislature passed the Early Learning Collaborative Act, which established Mississippi's first state-funded pre-K program.**

Ten years after its enactment, the pre-K law is a popular program with broad bipartisan support.



Who We Are

We are a dedicated team of experts who work tirelessly to promote the mission of Mississippi First.



What We Support

We are a leading voice for high-quality early education, high-quality public charter schools, access to highly effective teachers and leaders, and creating a future for public schools.



**COALITION FOR  
EDUCATION EQUITY  
OF ALASKA**

# Why should public schools be involved with children before kindergarten?

- The line between early care and education is blurry.
- Schools have a vested interest in school readiness.
- Every community has an elementary school.
- All children have access to public schools.
- Schools can help child care and Head Start programs.
- Child care and Head Start programs can help public schools.

Hinkle, D. (2000). School Involvement in Early Childhood. Washington, DC: US Dept. of Education.



COALITION FOR  
EDUCATION EQUITY  
OF ALASKA

# Thank you for your time!

Caroline Storm  
Executive Director

[caroline@ceequity.org](mailto:caroline@ceequity.org)  
907-399-0582

[www.ceequity.org](http://www.ceequity.org)



COALITION FOR  
EDUCATION EQUITY  
OF ALASKA