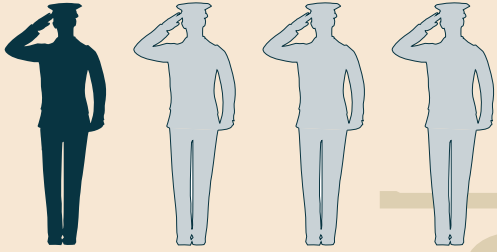


# EARLY CHILDHOOD INVESTMENTS ARE A MATTER OF . . .

## NATIONAL SECURITY



75% of Americans 17 to 24 cannot meet the military's eligibility requirements.<sup>i</sup>

THAT IS NEARLY

**775,000 YOUNG NORTH CAROLINIANS UNABLE**

**TO JOIN THE MILITARY.**

## ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

**80-90 MILLION ADULTS**  
NEARLY HALF THE US WORKFORCE

DO NOT HAVE THE BASIC EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS REQUIRED TO ACQUIRE AND ADVANCE IN JOBS.<sup>ii</sup>

**NC EMPLOYERS:**

**REPORT POOR COMMUNICATION SKILLS**

**60%**



Six out of 10 surveyed North Carolina employers reported communications skill gaps among job applicants.<sup>iii</sup>

## CRIME PREVENTION

At-risk children that didn't attend quality pre-kindergarten were 5 times more likely to become chronic criminal offenders by age 27.<sup>v</sup> In FY 2012-13, the NC General Assembly appropriated in state general funds \$1.38 billion to the Division of Corrections and \$266 million to the Division of Child Development.<sup>iv</sup>



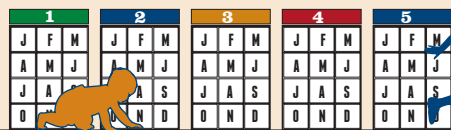
**\$ = \$1 Million**



**THE FOUNDATION FOR ALL FUTURE LEARNING IS BUILT DURING EARLY CHILDHOOD.**

**THE BRAIN IS THE ONE OF THE ONLY ORGANS NOT FULLY DEVELOPED AT BIRTH. EARLY EXPERIENCES DETERMINE HOW BRAINS ARE WIRED.**

**90%** OF CRITICAL BRAIN DEVELOPMENT HAPPENS IN THE FIRST FIVE YEARS OF LIFE.



**That's why military leaders, business executives, and law enforcement call early care and education paramount to our national security, our global competitive edge and our safety.**

# High Quality Early Childhood Programs PRODUCE RESULTS



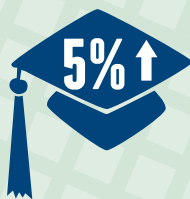
**THE GAP CLOSING** By 3rd grade, about one-third of the achievement gap can be closed by early education.<sup>vi</sup>



**HIGHER SCORES** NC 3rd graders have higher standardized reading and math scores and lower special education placement rates in counties that received more funding for Smart Start and More at Four (NC PreK) when those children were younger.<sup>vii</sup>



High quality early childhood programs increase graduation rates by as much as 44%. NC's graduation hit a record high of 82.5% in 2013.<sup>viii</sup>



**= \$152 MILLION  
IN SAVINGS**

A 5% increase in male high school graduation rates is estimated to save NC \$152 million in annual incarceration rates.<sup>ix</sup>



**HIGHER EARNINGS** Participants in high quality early childhood programs have higher earnings, pay more taxes and are less likely to rely on government assistance.<sup>x</sup>



**10% RETURN** Every dollar invested in early education produces a 10% return through increased personal achievement and social productivity.<sup>xi</sup>

**There are only 2,000 days from the time a child is born to when that child begins kindergarten.**

**First  
2000  
DAYS**<sup>TM</sup>  
Early Investment  
A LIFETIME OF RESULTS

[www.first2000days.org](http://www.first2000days.org)

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<sup>iv</sup> North Carolina Office of State Budget and Management. (2012). *The North Carolina State Budget 2011-2013*. Retrieved from [http://www.osbm.state.nc.us/files/pdf\\_files/2011PLS\\_rev.pdf](http://www.osbm.state.nc.us/files/pdf_files/2011PLS_rev.pdf).

<sup>v</sup> Fight Crime: Invest in Kids. (2012). *High-Quality Early Care and Education: A Key to Reducing Future Crime in North Carolina*. Washington, DC: Stephanie Schaefer and Lindsay Warner.

<sup>vi</sup> Camilli, G., Vargas, S., Ryan, S. & Barnett, W.S. (2010). Meta-analysis of the effects of early education interventions on cognitive and social development. *Teacher's College Record*, 112, 3, pp. 579-620

<sup>vii</sup> Valdivia, S. (2011). *Investments in Smart Start and More at Four Generate Broad Education Benefits*. Retrieved from <http://news.sanford.duke.edu/news-type/news/2011/new-study-investments-smart-start-and-more-four-generate-broad-education-benefit>.

<sup>viii</sup> Schweinhart, L.J., Montie, J., Xiang, Z., Barnett, W.S., Belfield, C.R., & Nores, M. (2005). *Lifetime effects The High Scope/Perry Preschool Study through age 40*. Ypsilanti, MI.

<sup>ix</sup> Heckman, J. J. (2013). *Invest in Early Childhood Development: Reduce Deficits, Strengthen North Carolina's Economy*. Chicago, IL.

<sup>x</sup> Burr, J. & Grunewald, R. (2006). *Lessons Learned: A Review of Early Childhood Development Studies*. Retrieved from [http://www.minneapolisfed.org/publications\\_papers/studies/earlychild/lessonslearned.pdf](http://www.minneapolisfed.org/publications_papers/studies/earlychild/lessonslearned.pdf).

<sup>xi</sup> Heckman, J. J. *Letter to the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform*. Retrieved from <http://www.heckmanequation.org/content/resource/letter-national-commission-fiscal-responsibility-and-reform>.