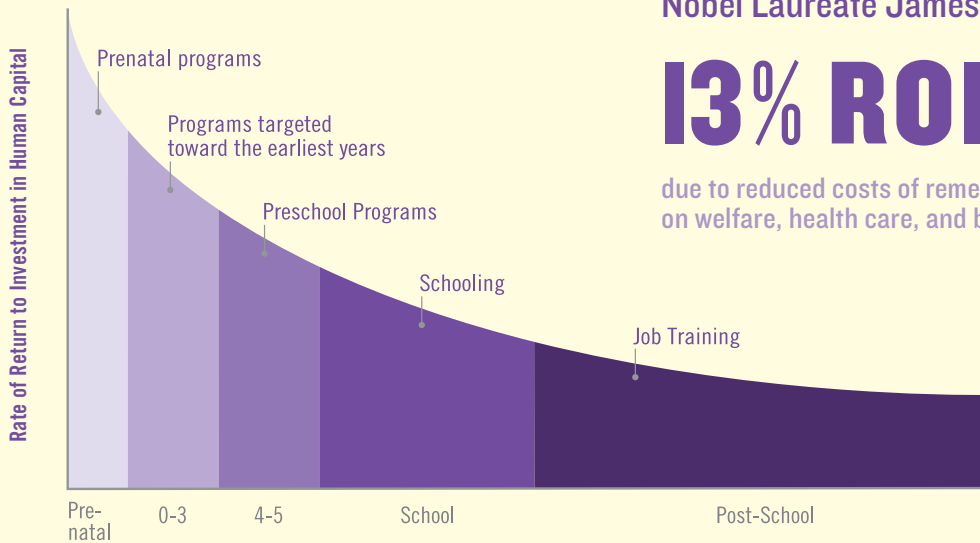


# Investing in early childhood education provides biggest return on investment

Public investments help Virginia's kids, families, and employers

## EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT IS A SMART INVESTMENT

The earlier the investment, the greater the return



Nobel Laureate James Heckman estimates a

**13% ROI**



**FROM INVESTING IN HIGH QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS**

due to reduced costs of remediation, incarceration, reliance on welfare, health care, and better employment outcomes

Source: James Heckman, Nobel Laureate in Economics

## FAMILIES STRUGGLE TO AFFORD CHILD CARE

THE AVERAGE COST OF INFANT CARE IN VIRGINIA IS

**\$12,000** PER YEAR

Child care is often more costly than college tuition

## EMPLOYERS STRUGGLE WITH EMPLOYEES' CHILD CARE CHALLENGES

On average, workers miss between



**4 to 8** DAYS A YEAR

due to child care problems

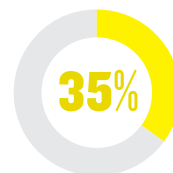
Productivity-loss estimates for a medium-size company range from

**\$75,000** A YEAR to several hundred thousand dollars a year

## TARGETING ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN YIELDS GREATER RETURN FOR PUBLIC INVESTMENTS

A task force representing the top early childhood researchers in the country recently put out this consensus statement: "There is often greater improvement for economically disadvantaged children and dual-language learners after a year of pre-k than there is for more advantaged and English-proficient children."

In Virginia, economically disadvantaged children are significantly less likely to attend preschool than their higher income peers.



**35%** OF ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED 3- & 4-YEAR-OLDS ATTEND PRESCHOOL

COMPARED TO



**55%** OF THEIR HIGHER INCOME PEERS

\* All sources available at [vakids.org/elections](http://vakids.org/elections)



## Questions for Candidates

#VAVotes4Kids

- 1 The average cost of infant care in Virginia is more than \$12,000 per year, about the same as college tuition. Only about 1 in every 6 kids that need financial assistance for care so that their parents can work receives it. **What solutions do you propose to improve access to child care for low-income families with infants?**
- 2 Children from higher income households are more likely to attend preschool than their economically disadvantaged peers. The Virginia Preschool Initiative has a track record of success but faces challenges to serve all the at-risk students who could benefit. **What strategies would you suggest to ensure that all children, regardless of their families' incomes, arrive at kindergarten ready to learn?**
- 3 Employers struggle to support their employees who are juggling family responsibilities. The decisions about work-life balance can lead to missed days and losses in productivity. **How could Virginia incentivize the business community to support parents' child care and parenting responsibilities?**
- 4 Young children are more likely to live in poverty than any other age group. **What, if anything, do you think should be done to help families with very young children living in poverty to ensure their children's healthy growth and development?**
- 5 Federal funding plays a significant role in Virginia's early learning system by funding home visiting services, early intervention, preschool, health care, and nutrition programs. **What would you do if federal funding for these initiatives was cut?**
- 6 Virginia is known to have a "non-system" of early learning where programs operate under different departments and sets of rules. **What would you do to better link programs and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Virginia's early learning programs?**
- 7 The role of early childhood educators is undervalued, considering the impact these individuals have on preparing young children for success in school. **What would you do to elevate the role of early childhood educators?**
- 8 In the most recent school year nearly 300 preschool-age students were suspended in Virginia public schools. **What do you think about the practice of preschool suspension? Would you champion any efforts to change the practice of preschool suspension?**

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