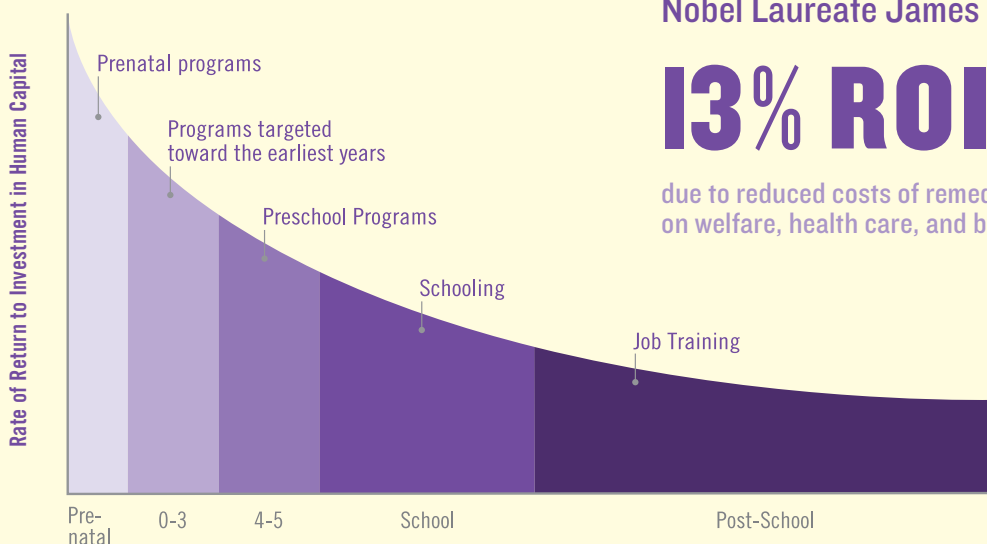


# Unified Early Childhood Policy Agenda

Promoting Prevention, Addressing Risk, Providing Return on Investment

## 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

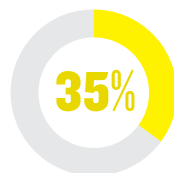
to several hundred thousand dollars a year

Relative placement

## 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.



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

COMPARED TO



**OF THEIR HIGHER INCOME PEERS**

\* All sources available at [vakids.org/kids-count-data/virginia-data](http://vakids.org/kids-count-data/virginia-data)

# Unified Early Childhood Policy Agenda

*Promoting Prevention, Addressing Risk, Providing Return on Investment*

## **More Young Children are Economically Disadvantaged than Any Other Age Group**

- ✓ Recognize the social-emotional needs of young children by providing evidence-based training and interventions for parents, caregivers and health care professionals.
- ✓ Support the development of a coordinated plan to integrate existing evidence-based home visiting services into the early childhood system to strengthen local systems of care.

## **Children Are Innocent Bystanders to Opioid Epidemic**

- ✓ Support efforts to maintain family connections and promote healthy development when children are impacted by parents' substance use disorders.

## **Promote Resilience and Prevent Childhood Trauma**

- ✓ Develop a state framework to implement evidence based trauma-informed policy and practice. Use the framework to help identify innovations, interventions and resources to support resilient children and communities.

## **Keep Children & Pregnant Women Covered**

- ✓ Maintain children's access to health care coverage by fully funding FAMIS.
- ✓ Extend the length of time to cover postpartum moms experiencing substance use disorders.

## **Future Success Depends on Access to High-Quality Early Care and Education**

- ✓ Focus efforts to expand access to high quality early care and education on children from low-income families
- ✓ Ensure that children are safe in child care and that Virginia meets federal standards for safety.

## **Align Resources to Improve Outcomes for Young Children**

- ✓ Support the continuation and development of incentives for quality improvement across early care settings.
- ✓ Support the continuation of the Children's Cabinet.

## **Early Childhood Policy Network Members:**

Child Care Aware, Children's Center, Child Development Resources, Children's National Health System, ChildSavers, Families Forward (CHIP, PAV, Early Impact), Head Start Association, JustChildren/Legal Aid Justice Center, Northern Virginia Association for the Education of Young Children, Smart Beginnings Prince William County, Virginia Association of Community Services Boards, Virginia Association of Early Childhood Education (VAECE), Virginia Association for Infant Mental Health, Virginia Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics and Voices for Virginia's Children