



Early Learning Impacts Everything

The
**Children's
Movement**
of Florida



Early learning prepares children for kindergarten



**BY AGE 3,
A CHILD'S
BRAIN IS
85%
DEVELOPED**



Given that 68% of children under age 6 live in homes where all adults work outside the home, teachers help children develop the skills they need to succeed in kindergarten:

- Impulse control
- Working with peers
- Expressing needs & asking questions
- Controlling their emotions
- Planning & focus

We must move the needle



**KINDERGARTEN
READINESS**

51%
(Improving)

100%
2030 Goal

TheFloridaScorecard.org

75%

**OF CHILDREN WHO
START KINDERGARTEN
BEHIND NEVER CATCH UP**

This is reflected in reading and literacy scores at critical milestones:
3rd grade, 8th grade and 11th grade.

**\$5.4
BILLION**

In lost economic value due to lack of access to quality child care, with working parents unable to join or stay in the workforce.

Florida Chamber Foundation
Untapped Potential in FL report

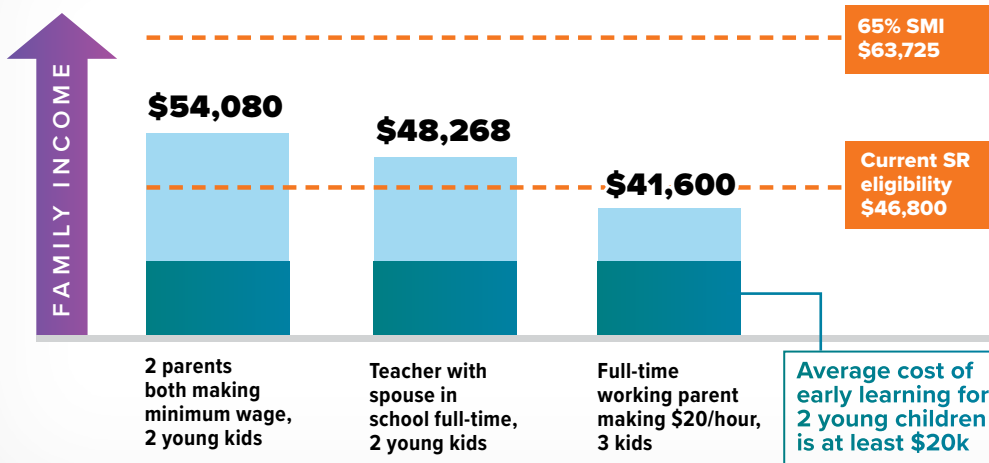
Early learning is the key to Florida's economic prosperity

For Florida to remain an education leader, we must better support parent choice and access to scholarships at the early learning level — before kindergarten.

Florida's School Readiness program provides early learning tuition assistance for working families — when both parents are in school or working at least 20 hours a week. **Unfortunately, the program is not supporting Florida's working families as intended.**



What does this mean for a family of 4?



A two-parent working family, both making minimum wage, is too wealthy for tuition assistance.

The annual cost of child care is nearly double the cost of in-state college tuition in Florida.

Data reflects 2024 fiscal year

This is a workforce issue and an education issue. We need your influence to help solve it.

Support parent choice in early education. Raise the income limits for Florida's School Readiness program so more families can access early learning tuition assistance and set their children up for success.



Reset School Readiness

so more Florida families have access to tuition assistance for their children's early learning.



Increase the Availability

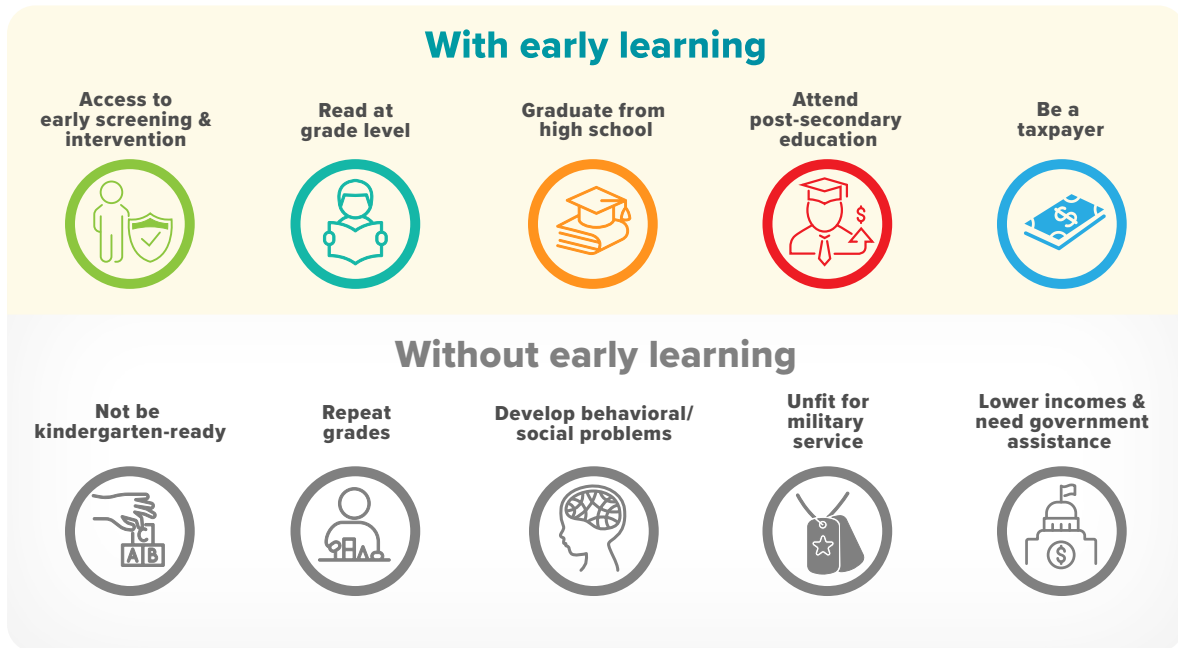
of specialized instruction and therapies for young children with disabilities and special health care needs.



Strengthen Career Pathways

for early learning teachers, providing better compensation and professional development to retain and attract high-quality educators.

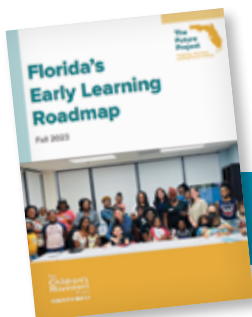
Early learning creates good citizens and taxpayers



Here's the progress Florida's made already:

- More than 15 years ago, Florida VPK was established. Today, **our state remains one of only six in the nation with a statewide Pre-K program.**
- In 2018, HB 1091 **created baseline quality standards and program assessment for School Readiness (SR),** the state's tuition assistance program for working families.
- In 2021, HB 419 **strengthened quality standards for VPK** and elevated the Office of Early Learning to a division within Florida's Department of Education.
- In 2023, HB 7079 **strengthened curriculum and teacher training** for literacy in VPK.
- In 2024, HB 1267 created the School Readiness Plus program to serve families graduating out of SR and up until they reach 100% of the State Median Income, **supporting economic mobility.**

With your help, Florida will lead the nation in education outcomes – starting with early learning



Florida's Early Learning Roadmap outlines policies to ensure all children receive the education and care they need to thrive.

To download, scan QR code or visit:
ChildrensMovementFlorida.org/Roadmap

