

EARLY LEARNING AND THE LOCAL CONTROL FUNDING FORMULA

IMPROVING STUDENT OUTCOMES



As school districts, county offices of education and communities begin to transition to LCFF and craft Local Control and Accountability Plan goals and priorities, we encourage them to consider early childhood education – one evidence-based intervention that has been proven to make a difference for all students, and particularly for low-income students and English learners.

Studies show that early learning programs like preschool and transitional kindergarten have improved outcomes for students on at least two of the eight state priorities that must be addressed in the local plans: 1) pupil achievement as measured by statewide assessments, and 2) pupil engagement, as measured by high school graduation and dropout rates.

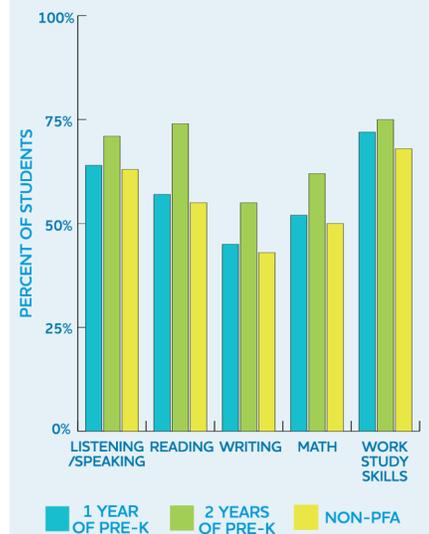
Districts have been providing preschool for years, and some recent additional district general fund investments in programs are an encouraging indication that district leaders understand and value the connection between school readiness and later success.



A STRONG, EARLY START CAN LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD

- California children who start out behind in kindergarten are still behind in 3rd grade.
- California researchers also found that high-quality preschool can make a difference by improving kindergarten readiness and raising performance on academic achievement tests in the early grades. .
- Fresno children who went to preschool were twice as likely to be ready for school, according to new data in Fresno County.
- Low-income students who attended San Mateo County's Preschool for All program in the Redwood City School District for two years outperformed more well-off children who did not attend. By 2nd grade, 74% of those attending the program for two years were proficient in reading, compared to 55% of those who did not attend, and 62% who attended were proficient in math, compared to 50%.

2ND GRADE PROFICIENCY RATES FOR ONE- AND TWO-YEAR PRESCHOOL PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS AND NON-PARTICIPANTS



*regression-adjusted

Based on: Sanchez, M. (2012). *Educational Outcomes for Preschool for All Participants in Redwood City School District: Update*. John W. Gardner Center for Youth and Their Communities, Stanford School of Education.



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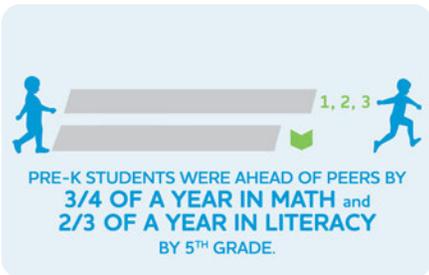
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EARLY LEARNING IMPROVES STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT SCORES

- Students were more likely to demonstrate proficiency on statewide assessment tests in math (55% vs 47%) and reading (43% vs 35%) than those not in Michigan's Great Start Readiness Program.
- Students generated gains on 3rd grade reading and math test scores equivalent to about five months in reading and three to five months in math ahead of their peers who were not in two statewide preschool programs in North Carolina.
- Students were three-fourths of a year ahead of their peers in math, and two-thirds of a year ahead in literacy by 5th grade, scoring higher on state assessments than those who did not attend the New Jersey Abbott Preschool program.
- Students were more likely to reach advanced or proficient levels on the state's annual 3rd grade assessment than those who did not attend Denver Public Preschool (64% vs 58%), and less likely to score at unsatisfactory levels (13% vs 19%).
 - English Language Learners were also more likely to attain proficient or advanced levels on the 3rd grade assessment (50% vs. 43%).



Based on: Barnett, W.S., Jung, K., Youn, M.J., & Frede, E.C. (2013). *Abbott Preschool Program Longitudinal Effects Study: Fifth Grade Follow-Up*. National Institute for Early Education Research.



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION IMPROVES HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES

- There was a 44% increase in graduation rates by age 40 in the Perry Preschool Program in Michigan.
- There was a 29% increase in high school graduation by age 20 in the Chicago Public Schools Child-Parent Center Program.
- Students were more likely to graduate on time from high school (58% vs 43%), particularly children of color (60% vs 37%) in the Michigan Great Start Readiness Program.

Beyond showing outcomes on these two priorities, research shows early childhood education offers a range of other benefits, including saving districts money by reducing grade retention and special education placements.