



## We're Wasting Our Children's Futures

When Westchester's children enter the workforce, they will compete for good jobs with people from all over the world.

### THEY WILL NOT MEASURE UP.

In a comparison of 60 countries, American 15-year-olds ranked **24th in reading, 28th in science** and **36th in math**.<sup>1</sup>

Shanghai-China's mathematics scores are 2 years ahead of those observed in Massachusetts.<sup>1</sup>

**New York ranks 25th** in the nation for quality of education, based on key metrics that include SAT/ACT scores, dropout rates, and math and reading scores.<sup>3</sup>

Only about **1 in 4** American high school graduates meet all 4 ACT College Readiness Benchmarks.<sup>2</sup>

In Westchester, less than 1/2 of graduating students countywide are academically "college ready."<sup>4</sup>

## We're Wasting Our Time and Money

### Timing of educational investment is key.

Quality early childhood education has a critical impact on kindergarten readiness, high school graduation and employment rates, and adult income, yet only **14%** of U.S. public education dollars are **spent on early childhood education**.<sup>5</sup>

Early learning provides society with a **return on investment of \$8.60 for every \$1 spent**. About 50% of that benefit comes from kids who attend preschool earning higher incomes as adults.<sup>6</sup>

Despite these facts, the **U.S. is 21st** in total investment in early childhood education relative to country wealth.<sup>7</sup> Head Start reaches less than 50% of the eligible children and Early Head Start less than 4%.

**85%** of potentially eligible children are **not receiving child care subsidies** in the U.S.; the number has been declining since 2010.<sup>8</sup>

*Average expenditure per child, combined public and private dollars:*<sup>9</sup>

- National, for early childhood education: **\$8,400 per child**
- National, for elementary/secondary education: **\$11,009**
- New York State, for elementary/secondary education: **\$20,610**

## Academic Achievement is Determined by Economics

A **"30 million word gap"** exists based on family income: a 3-year-old child in a family on welfare has experience with 13 million words vs. a child in a professional family, who experiences 45 million words.<sup>10</sup> This has a **lifelong impact on academics and career earnings**.

Children in high income, highly-educated families are more apt to receive early childhood education than those whose mothers did not complete high school.<sup>11</sup> The gap widens even further as parents in the top 20% for income now spend 7x as much on enrichment activities and materials for their children than those in the bottom 20%.<sup>12</sup>

<p><b>SCARSDALE</b></p> <p>Median Household Income: <b>\$241,453</b><sup>13</sup></p> <p>High School grad rate: <b>99%</b><sup>14</sup></p>	<p><b>VS</b></p>	<p><b>MT. VERNON</b></p> <p>Median Household Income: <b>\$49,268</b><sup>15</sup></p> <p>High School grad rate: <b>54%</b><sup>16</sup></p>
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## We Can Change This, and Voters Want To

### There is bipartisan support for early education

Quality early education is key to breaking the cycle of poverty.

Do you support making early childhood education and child care more affordable for working families? <sup>17</sup>	<b>yes</b>	98% of Democrats 82% of Republicans 86% of Independents
Do you believe preschool programs improve student performance in later years? <sup>18</sup>	<b>yes</b>	86% of Democrats 75% of Republicans 76% of Independents

We need to level the playing field - to ensure poverty doesn't dictate access to quality early care and education and limit a child's opportunities for a bright, self-sufficient future.



# The Cost of Not Investing in Quality Early Childhood Education

## FOR ONE CHILD

### Kevin doesn't receive quality early care and education

because his low-income working parents earn a couple hundred dollars too much to qualify for a child care subsidy, and there are no open slots for him in a Universal Pre-K program



When he enters Kindergarten, Kevin is not prepared to meet grade level expectations and is held back

**Cost: \$14,091**

Kevin requires special education services

**Cost: \$185,920 over 10 years**

Kevin drops out of high school

**His lifetime earnings are \$385,880 less than a high school graduate**



As a male high school dropout, Kevin is 10% more likely to engage in crime and go to jail

**Cost: \$60,000 per year**

Kevin doesn't attend or graduate from college

**Cost: loses out on \$1.3 million of earnings**

Without a college degree, Kevin relies on welfare to support his family

**Cost: \$47,340 over 5 years**

SOURCE INFO FOR THIS SIDE Data, used with permission, from *Winning Beginning NY*

## FOR NEW YORK'S CHILDREN

**Only 22% of eligible children** have a public child care subsidy

**63% of the state's 4-year-olds** in low income communities outside NYC don't have a seat in full-day Universal Pre-K



In-grade retention 32% higher than necessary

**First graders statewide: Cost of \$37.8 million per year**

Special education placement 30% higher than necessary

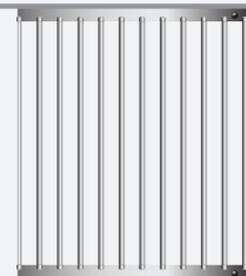
**Third graders statewide: Cost of \$874 million over 10 years**

The high school graduation rate is reduced by 7.3%

**12th graders statewide: earn \$2.4 billion less than they could over a lifetime**

Prison costs remain high

**12th graders statewide: cost of \$18.7 million over a lifetime**



Fewer high school graduates means fewer college graduates

**Cost: Lifetime earnings of \$1.5 billion less than high school graduates**

Fewer college graduates means more people requiring welfare assistance

**Cost: \$19.1+ million in welfare over the next generation**

SOURCE INFO FOR OPPOSITE SIDE

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- 5 National Institute for Early Education Research
- 6 <https://www.nationalpriorities.org/analysis/2015/early-childhood-education-fact-sheet/>
- 7 Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
- 8 CLASP, 2014
- 9 U.S Census Bureau
- 10 <http://www.aft.org/sites/default/files/periodicals/TheEarlyCatastrophe.pdf>
- 11 President's Council of Economic Advisors
- 12 Duncan and Murnane, 2016
- 13 <http://www.census.gov/quickfacts/table/RHI105210/3665431>
- 14 <http://www.usnews.com/education/best-high-schools/new-york/districts/scarsdale-union-free-school-district/scarsdale-senior-high-school-14050>
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- 17 <http://ffyf.org/resources/2016-poll-majorities-support-ece/>
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