



OVERVIEW

Learning knows no boundaries; children begin a lifetime of learning from their earliest moments. It is with this understanding that Texans acknowledge the importance and power of early childhood education programs in determining the success of Texas children. It is no secret that quality pre-k programs have long prepared children for educational success, but investing in high-quality voluntary early childhood education also offers substantial strength to the future economic and fiscal position of Texas. The long-term impact of high-quality pre-k programs translates into significant economic, social and educational benefits (narrowing achievement gaps, reducing number of dropouts, gaining the competitive advantage, saving taxpayer dollars) with returns far exceeding the costs.

TEXANS SUPPORT PRE-K

WHEREAS, Texans of every income bracket, political stripe and geographic region of the state agree: Texas children who attend pre-kindergarten (pre-k) are better equipped to succeed in school and in life. And, an overwhelming majority of Texans want quality pre-k made available for all children, and,

PRE-K BOASTS STRONG RETURN ON INVESTMENT

*WHEREAS, Texas A&M University's Bush School of Government & Public Service's Cost-Benefit Analysis of Universally-Accessible Pre-Kindergarten Education in Texas found that for every **\$1.00 invested** in quality pre-k programs in Texas, the state will incur at least **\$3.31 return** on investment generating significant public and private benefits and creating sound fiscal policy, and,*

PRE-K KEEPS TEXAS JOBS AT HOME

WHEREAS, our state/nation as it enters the 21st century finds increasing challenges in a competitive global marketplace in comparison to countries such as China, India and several others, and,

TEXAS' WORKFORCE IN JEOPARDY WITHOUT PRE-K

WHEREAS, Texas' business leaders and key educators agree that the tens of millions of "Baby Boomers" who will leave the workplace over the next decade must be replaced with a generation of young adults whose math, science and technology skills will help Texas sustain its economic leadership, and,

PRE-K INACCESSIBLE TO WORKING FAMILIES

WHEREAS, because of the downturn in the economy working families are struggling to make ends meet, this includes the high cost of childcare. Access to high-quality pre-k programs is essential to keeping the Texas workforce in-tact and increasing the likelihood for financial stability for Texas families.

PRE-K IMPROVES HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES

WHEREAS, pre-k programs have been shown to have a significant impact on high school graduation rates, instilling a culture of learning and a standard for educational achievement,

TEXANS MUST ACT FOR PRE-K

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Board Chair of the United Way of _____ joins other community leaders in asking state lawmakers to make pre-kindergarten programs the highest priority during the 2009 Texas Legislature.