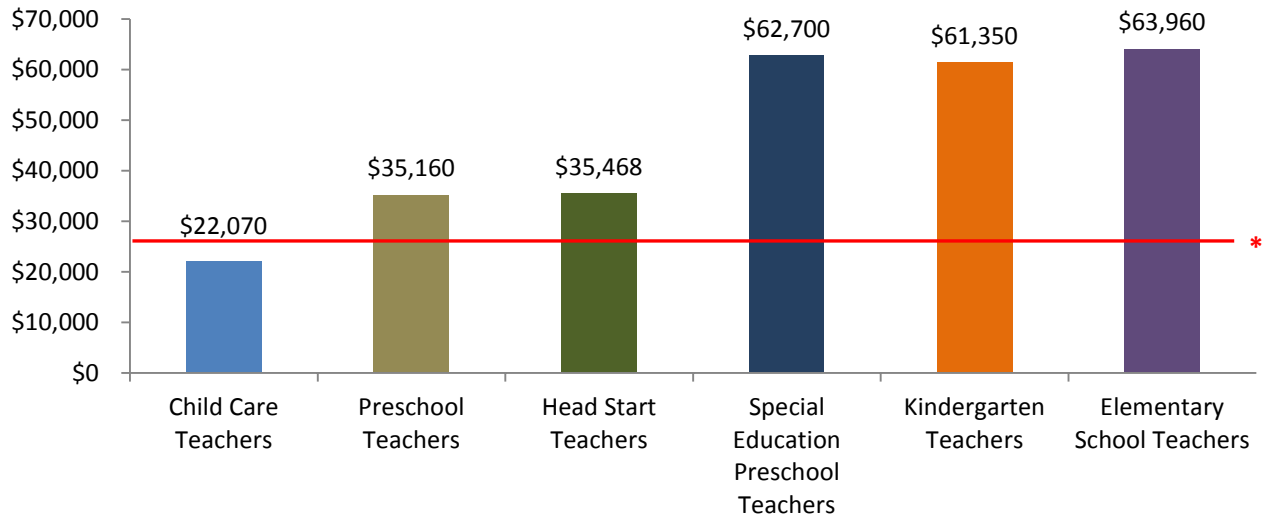# NEW JERSEY

Access to High Quality Early Learning Matters!

Research shows that during the earliest years of a child's life:

- 700 - 1,000 new neural connections form every second
- Genetics plus experiences shape the developing brain
- The foundation forms for future cognitive abilities
- Vocabulary at age 3 can predict 3rd Grade Reading Achievement

High Quality Programs Depend on a Quality Workforce
Low Wages Undermine Quality

New Jersey Median Annual Workforce Earnings

Occupation	Earnings
Child Care Teachers	$22,070
Preschool Teachers	$35,160
Head Start Teachers	$35,468
Special Education Preschool Teachers	$62,700
Kindergarten Teachers	$61,350
Elementary School Teachers	$63,960

*Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) eligibility for a family of three: $26,124

New Jersey Demographics

- **639,750** Children Under Age 6
- **232,618** Children Under Age 6 Below 200% of Poverty
- **66.4%** Children Under Age 6 Living in Households with All Parents Working
- **37%** Families Led by a Single Mother with Children Under Age 5 Living in Poverty
- **17.9%** Children Under Age 5 Living in Poverty

New Jersey Median Annual Wages for Other Occupations

- Parking Lot Attendants $21,150
- Manicurist & Pedicurist $26,330
- Word Processors/Typists $41,010
- Nurses $79,230