NORTH CAROLINA

Access to High Quality Early Learning Matters!

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

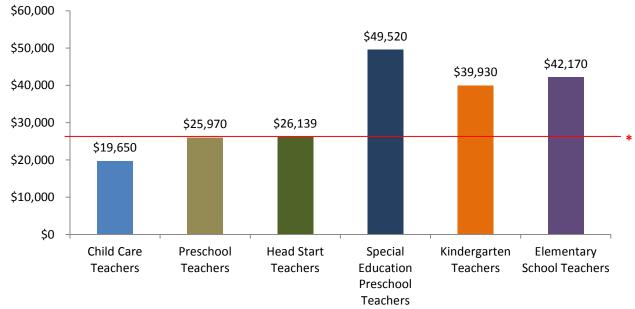
700 - 1,000 new neural connections form every second

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

North Carolina Median Annual Workforce Earnings



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

North Carolina Demographics

731,014 Children Under Age 6

399,817 Children Under Age 6 Below 200% of Poverty

65.1% Children Under Age 6 Living in Households with All Parents Working

49.4% Families Led by a Single Mother with Children Under Age 5 Living in Poverty

27.3% Children Under Age 5 Living in Poverty

North Carolina Median Annual Wages for Other Occupations







Manicurist & Pedicurist \$29,390



Word Processors/ Typists \$31,940



Nurses \$58,950





Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 1 Year data (2014); U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics (2015); Head Start Program Information Report (2015).