

# OKLAHOMA

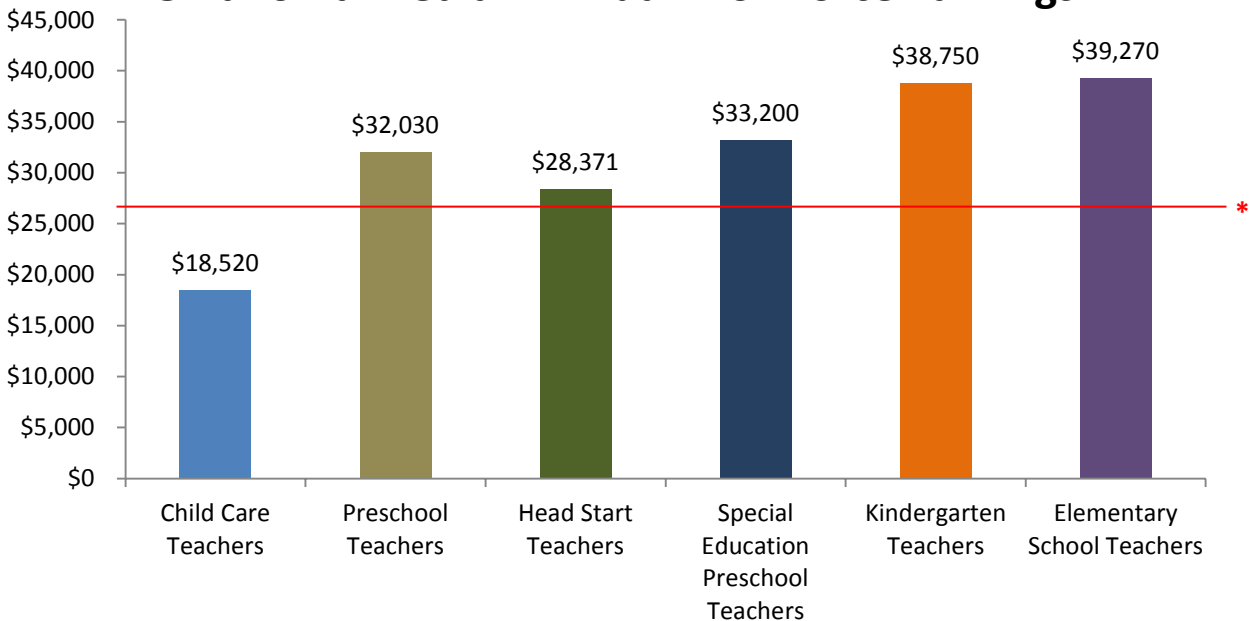
## Access to High Quality Early Learning Matters!

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 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Reading Achievement

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

### Oklahoma Median Annual Workforce Earnings



### Oklahoma Demographics

- 318,768** Children Under Age 6
- 161,549** Children Under Age 6 Below 200% of Poverty
- 61.6%** Children Under Age 6 Living in Households with All Parents Working
- 54.2%** Families Led by a Single Mother with Children Under Age 5 Living in Poverty
- 24.7%** Children Under Age 5 Living in Poverty

### Oklahoma Median Annual Wages for Other Occupations

- Parking Lot Attendants: \$20,040
- Manicurist & Pedicurist: \$19,140
- Word Processors/Typists: \$31,930
- Nurses: \$58,460

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).

