# **RHODE ISLAND**

### **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

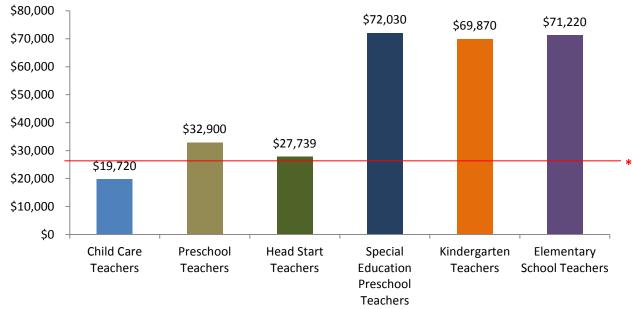
**Genetics plus** experiences shape the developing brain

The foundation forms for future cognitive abilities

Vocabulary at age 3 can predict **Grade Reading** Achievement

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

## **Rhode Island Median Annual Workforce Earnings**



<sup>\*</sup>Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) eligibility for a family of three: \$26,124

### **Rhode Island Demographics**

#### 65,756 Children Under Age 6 30,090 Children Under Age 6 Below 200% of **Poverty** 73.8% Children Under Age 6 Living in Households with All Parents Working **51.6%** Families Led by a Single Mother with Children Under Age 5 Living in Poverty 23.6% Children Under Age 5 Living in Poverty

#### **Rhode Island Median Annual Wages for Other Occupations**







Manicurist & Pedicurist \$22,840



Word Processors/ **Typists** \$39,760



Nurses \$76,300





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).