

# VIRGINIA

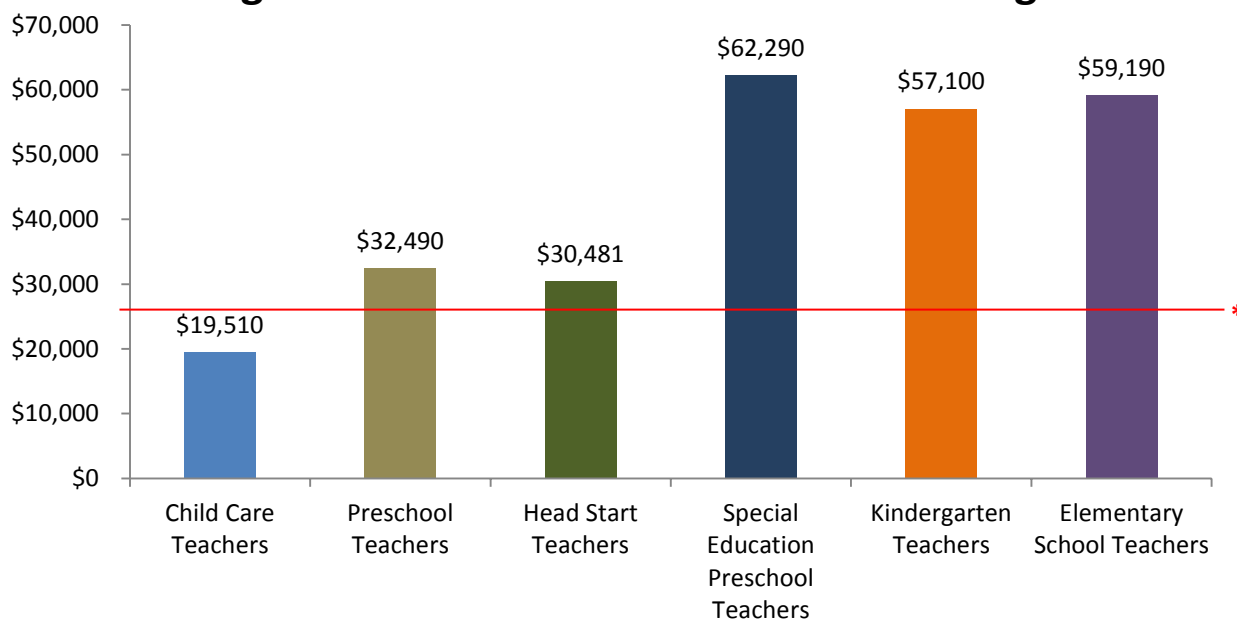
## Access to High Quality Early Learning Matters!

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

### Virginia Median Annual Workforce Earnings



### Virginia Demographics

- 610,937** Children Under Age 6
- 224,933** Children Under Age 6 Below 200% of Poverty
- 66.8%** Children Under Age 6 Living in Households with All Parents Working
- 43.9%** Families Led by a Single Mother with Children Under Age 5 Living in Poverty
- 16.9%** Children Under Age 5 Living in Poverty

### Virginia Median Annual Wages for Other Occupations

- Parking Lot Attendants: \$20,360
- Manicurist & Pedicurist: \$20,030
- Word Processors/Typists: \$38,360
- Nurses: \$63,640

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).

