

# ALASKA

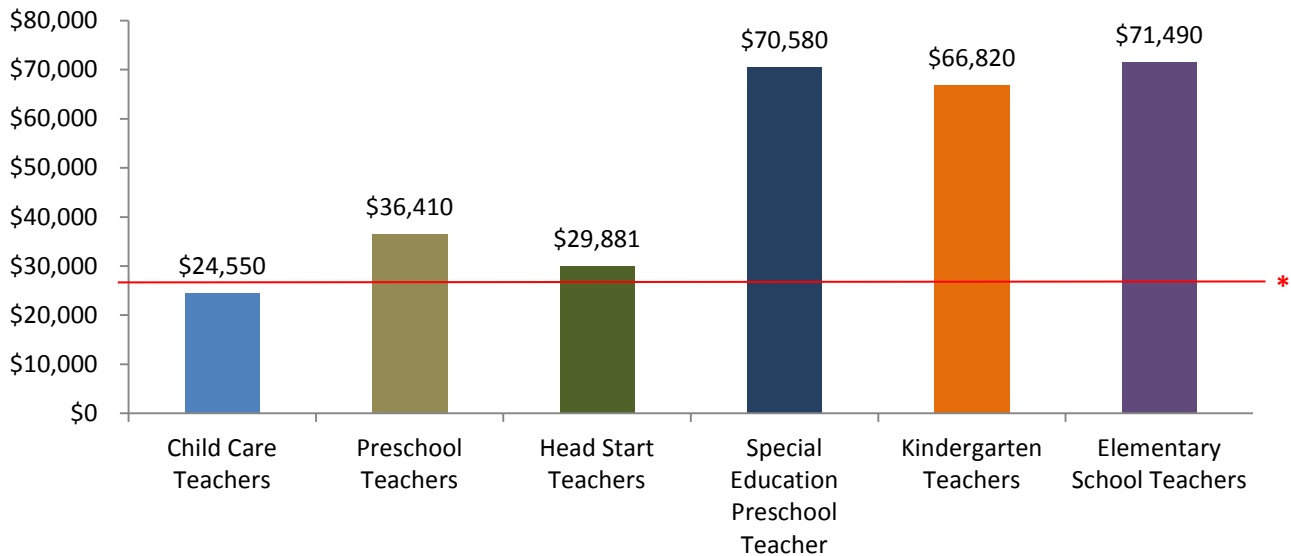
## Access to High Quality Early Learning Matters!

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

### Alaska Median Annual Workforce Earnings



### Alaska Demographics

- 63,804** Children Under Age 6
- 25,530** Children Under Age 6 Below 200% of Poverty
- 58.6%** Children Under Age 6 Living in Households with All Parents Working
- 31.5%** Families Led by a Single Mother with Children Under Age 5 Living in Poverty
- 17.6%** Children Under Age 5 Living in Poverty

### Alaska Median Annual Wages for Other Occupations

- Parking Lot Attendants \$22,820
- Manicurists & Pedicurists \$28,040
- Word Processors/Typists \$37,190
- Nurses \$88,130

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).

