MASSACHUSETTS

Access to High Quality Early Learning Matters!

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

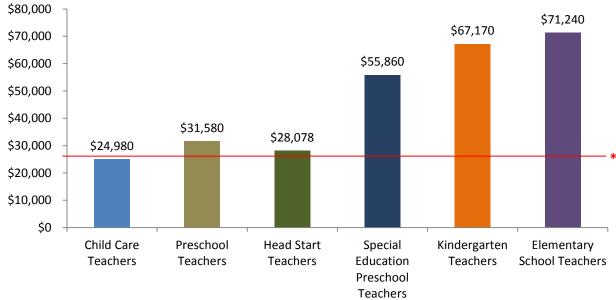
700 - 1,000 new neural connections form every second

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

Massachusetts Median Annual Workforce Earnings



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

Massachusetts Demographics

435,831 Children Under Age 6

142,175 Children Under Age 6 Below 200% of Poverty

70.8% Children Under Age 6 Living in Households with All Parents Working

37.8% Families Led by a Single Mother with Children Under Age 5 Living in Poverty

17% Children Under Age 5 Living in Poverty

Massachusetts Median Annual Wages for Other Occupations







Manicurist & Pedicurist \$22,990



Word Processors/ Typists \$41,140



Nurses \$83,950

[†]Annual wages are from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (May 2015). MA parking lot attendants data was not available for 2015; 2014 BLS wage data is reflected instead.

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).



