# **MINNESOTA**

## **Access to High Quality Early Learning Matters!**

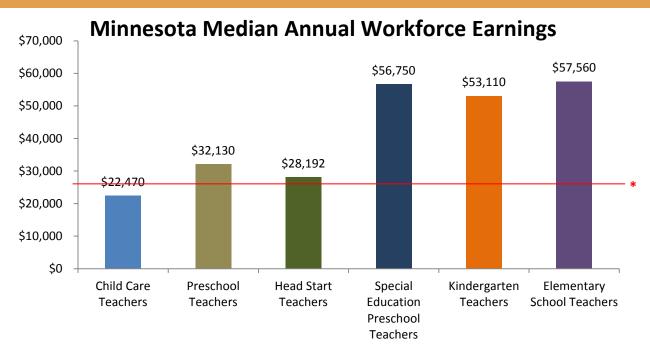
### Research shows that during the earliest years of a child's life:

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



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

## **Minnesota Demographics**

416,848 Children Under Age 6

**154,058** Children Under Age 6 Below 200% of Poverty

74% Children Under Age 6 Living in Households with All Parents Working

**47.6%** Families Led by a Single Mother with Children Under Age 5 Living in Poverty

**17.1%** Children Under Age 5 Living in Poverty

#### Minnesota Median Annual Wages for Other Occupations







Manicurist & Pedicurist \$23,000



Word Processors/ Typists \$40,750



Nurses \$72,130





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).