

# YOLO COUNTY 2016

## “Quality Preschool For ALL”

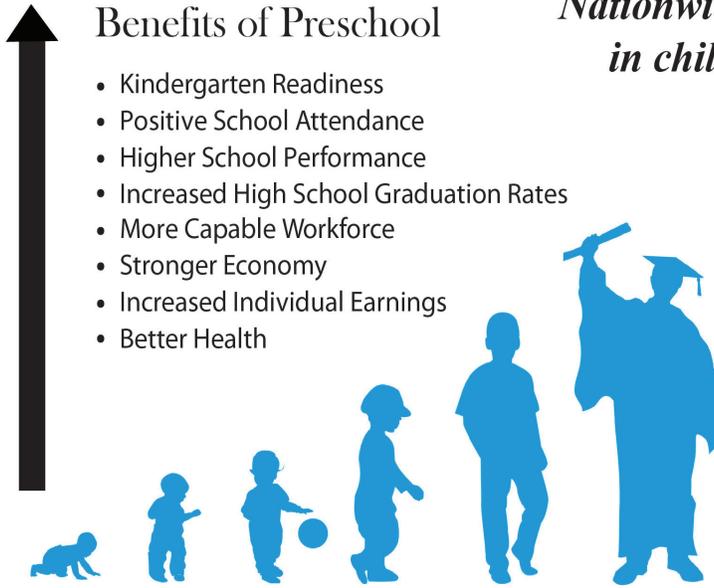
### Benefits of Preschool

- Kindergarten Readiness
- Positive School Attendance
- Higher School Performance
- Increased High School Graduation Rates
- More Capable Workforce
- Stronger Economy
- Increased Individual Earnings
- Better Health

*Nationwide studies reveal that investing early in children’s development yield benefits that go beyond test scores.*

### At-Risk Child Not Attending Preschool

- 25% Likely to Not Graduate
- 40% Likely to Become a Teen Parent
- 60% Likely to Not Attend College
- 70% Likely to Be Arrested for a Violent Crime



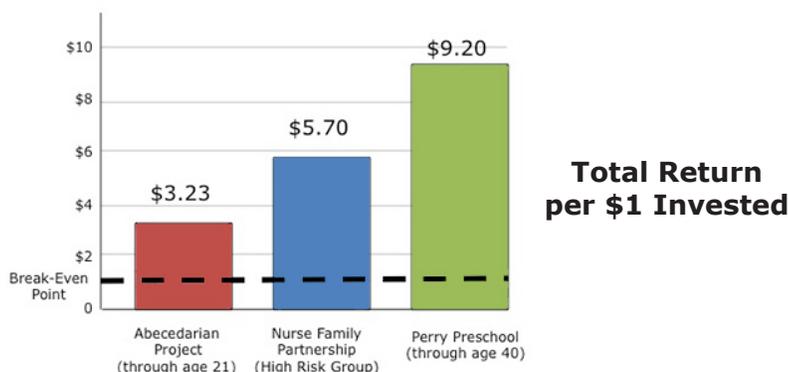
SOURCE: VARIOUS PRESCHOOL RESEARCH

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:** A school readiness gap exists for the youngest learners in Yolo County. At least 41% of three and four year olds in Yolo County do not experience preschool before starting kindergarten. Income disparities, rural location, family mobility - all present significant lifetime challenges that could be overcome by a quality preschool for all education system. Our entire county community would benefit by this system and the resulting overall positive economic impact.

**BACKGROUND:** A high-quality preschool education is critical to ensuring that children start Kindergarten on a level playing field with their peers. Since the 1960’s more than a hundred studies in

the United States alone have shown that preschool attendance significantly benefits children’s school readiness and success.<sup>i</sup> Without access to preschool, low-income children and dual language learners often start behind and stay behind as they progress through school.<sup>ii</sup>

**COST/BENEFIT ANALYSES SHOW POSITIVE RETURNS**  
Early Childhood Programs Demonstrating Range of Benefits to Society



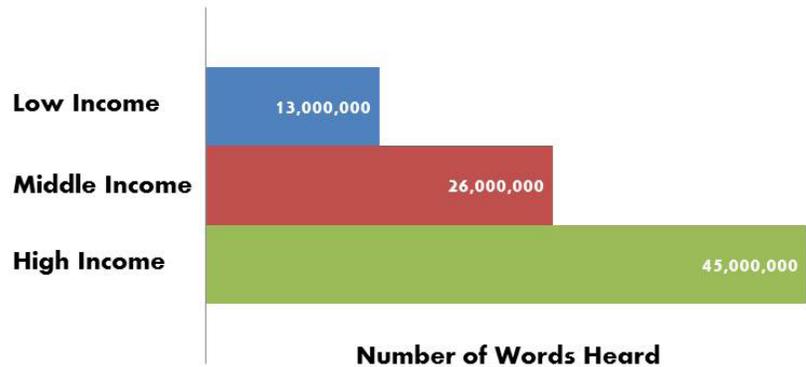
SOURCE: CENTER ON THE DEVELOPING CHILD AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY, n.d.

Children who attend preschool are 24% more likely to pass reading exams through grade three and in turn, children who do not read well by the end of third grade are

four times more likely to drop out of high school.<sup>iii</sup>

Programs like Head Start while intended to expand access to preschool for low income populations, have not reached large segments of the population. Income scales are often set too low, with the working poor and middle class ineligible altogether. In contrast, preschool for all programs reaches all children and provide for the most efficient use of best practices, curriculum, and teacher development programs.<sup>iv</sup>

### VOCABULARY OF A CHILD BY AGE FOUR IS ONE OF THE BEST PREDICTORS OF HOW THAT CHILD WILL PERFORM IN SCHOOL



SOURCE: HART & RISLEY, 2004

**NEEDS STATEMENT:** According to a 2014 study, nearly 15,000 children ages 0-5 live in Yolo County. There are approximately 2,400 births annually. In 2015, an estimated 59 percent of all three and four year olds in Yolo County were enrolled in a preschool program.

The average cost of half-day preschool in Yolo County is \$715 a month.<sup>v</sup> For a single parent making minimum

#### “HOW IMPORTANT IS ATTENDING PRESCHOOL TO A STUDENT’S SUCCESS IN KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE 12”

	All Adults	Household Income			Public School Parents
		Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	\$80,000 or more	
<b>Very Important</b>	66%	73%	66%	60%	81%
<b>Somewhat Important</b>	22	21	23	23	12
<b>Not Too Important</b>	7	4	5	9	3
<b>Not At All Important</b>	4	2	4	6	4
<b>Don't Know</b>	1	1	1	2	--

SOURCE: PPIC STATEWIDE SURVEY, APRIL 2014

wage, this is 45 percent of their annual income and doesn't include the cost of additional childcare. Since 2008, the total number of subsidized child-care slots in Yolo County has decreased from 3,277 to 2,288<sup>vi</sup> – leaving even more families without affordable, quality childcare options. The Yolo County Office of Education estimates that approximately 2,000 three and four year olds who qualify for Head Start and state-subsidized preschool are

unable to find placement in these programs due to the large waiting lists.

Multiple studies have correlated preschool participation to third grade reading proficiency. According to the Yolo County 2013 STAR Test Results and 2014 Children Now Report:

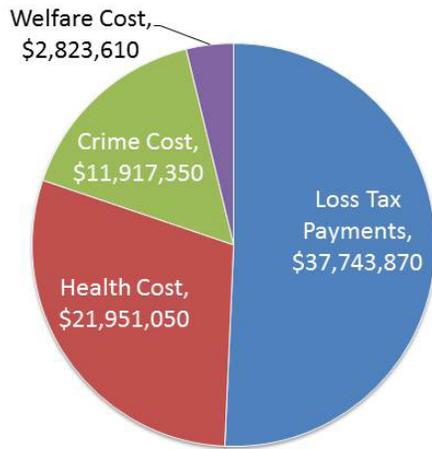
- 46 percent of all students read at or above grade level in third grade
- 41 percent of White students are not reading at grade level in third grade
- 44 percent of Asian students are not reading at grade level in third grade
- 57 percent of African American students are not reading at grade level in third grade
- 67 percent of Latino students are not reading at grade level in third grade
- 69 percent of low income students are not reading at grade level in third grade

Yolo County currently offers Transitional Kindergarten to some four- and five-year-olds under the State’s Kindergarten Readiness Act (2010). Transitional Kindergarten can bridge the path between preschool and kindergarten and offers age-appropriate social and emotional experiences in addition to academic learning. In Yolo County, Transitional Kindergarten is offered in both full day and half-day sessions and is fully funded by state dollars. While this program represents a step in the right direction, it serves a limited number of children. Due to the income restrictions required by the program and the increased mobility of low-income families, attendance in these programs is inconsistent at best.

**SOLUTION:** To address the needs identified above, Yolo County preschool advocates propose the implementation of a quality preschool program for all. The proposed preschool system would be one that is available to every child, regardless of family income, the child’s abilities, or other factors. Yolo County’s program would provide full-day, full-year quality preschool for all three year olds and eligible four year olds. The adoption of preschool for all would address the current gaps in service provided by Transitional Kindergarten and preschools while ensuring that all three and four-year-olds are “Kindergarten ready” by age five.

Yolo County’s program would be developed with the support of existing private and public preschool providers in the area, and would strive to complement – rather than duplicate or replace – existing programs: The program will put in place a standardized accountability system to measure teacher quality that can be expanded and replicated to area school districts.

**CLASS OF 2006-07 IN YOLO COUNTY LIFETIME FISCAL COSTS FOR 373 TOTAL DROPOUTS**



**TOTAL FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT COSTS:**  
**\$74,435,880**

SOURCE: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, 2009; BELFIELD & LEVIN, 2007

**BENEFITS:** Yolo County preschool advocates firmly believe that all children should start Kindergarten prepared to succeed. By giving them the best possible start in life, we will ensure an educated workforce and positive economic growth far into the future.

Providing a full-day, full-year service to current employees will enhance the area’s current offerings of affordable

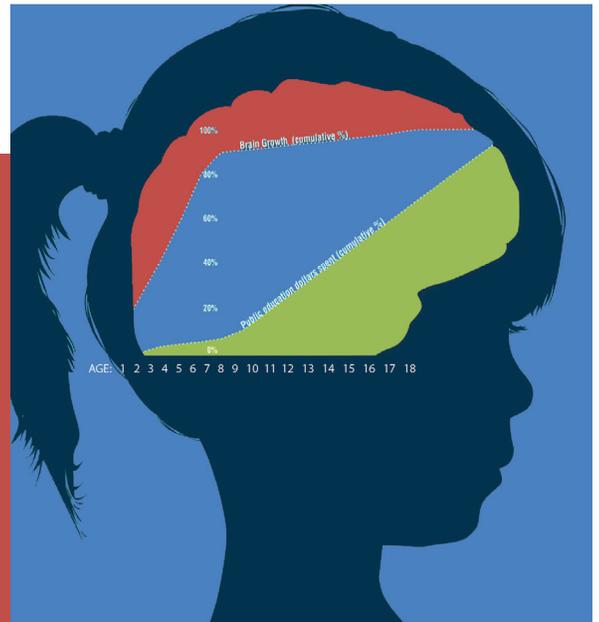
childcare for the workforce. Children, families, and local classrooms will all benefit from the additional training and professional development received by preschool providers. The addition of jobs in the Early Childhood Education (ECE) field as well as the elevated status of ECE care within the community will lead to more jobs, better pay, and a positive economic impact on the area.

**CALL TO ACTION:** It is imperative to the well-being of our children and the economy of Yolo County that every child begin Kindergarten prepared to learn. By providing **QUALITY PRESCHOOL FOR ALL**, Yolo County will guarantee that every child – our children, our next door neighbor’s children and children from up the valley will be prepared for success in school and in life.

## **INVEST NOW AND EVERYONE GAINS! SMART at the START**

**85% of brain development  
occurs before the age of 5,  
but only 14% of public education  
dollars are spent on early  
childhood education in the U.S.**

SOURCE: AMERICA'S EDGE, RAND CORPORATIONS AND THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR EARLY EDUCATION RESEARCH



## **I SUPPORT "QUALITY PRESCHOOL FOR ALL IN YOLO COUNTY":**

- **Jesse Ortiz, Ed.D., Yolo County Superintendent of Schools**
- **Patty Wong, Yolo County Librarian**
- **Shelton Yip, Yolo County Board of Education**
- **Carol Souza Cole, Yolo County Board of Education**
- **Norma Alcalá, Washington School Board**
- **Tico Zendejas, Woodland School Board**

**- Compiled by Yolo County Preschool Advocates -  
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### **SOURCES:**

<sup>i</sup> Camilli, G., Vargas, S., Ryan, S., Barnett, W.S., (2010), Meta-analysis of the effects of early education initiatives on cognitive and social development, *Teachers College Record*, 112, 579-620.

<sup>ii</sup> RAND (2007). Who is ahead and who is behind?

[http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/technical\\_reports/2007/RAND\\_TR537.pdf](http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/technical_reports/2007/RAND_TR537.pdf)

<sup>iii</sup> Ready Nation (2010), Savings now, savings later.

<http://www.readynation.org/savings-now-savings-later-smart-early-childhood-programs-pay-off-right-away-and-in-the-future/>

<sup>iv</sup> Yoshikawa, Hirokazu, Christine Weiland, Jeanne Brooks-Gunn, Margaret R. Burchinal, Linda M. Espinosa, William T. Gormley, Jens Ludwig, Katherine A. Magnuson, Deborah Phillips, and Martha J. Zaslow. Investing in our future: The evidence base on preschool education. Vol. 9. Society for Research in Child Development and Foundation for Child Development, 2013.

<sup>v</sup> KidsData.org, 2012. Annual Cost of Child Care, by Age Group and Type of Facility.

<http://www.kidsdata.org/topic/564/child-care-cost-age-facility/>

<sup>vi</sup> First 5 Yolo County, 2014. How are the children? A community needs assessment and report on trends in the well-being of Yolo County children ages 0-5 years. <http://www.first5yolo.org/pdfs/F5YCNA2014-15.pdf>