

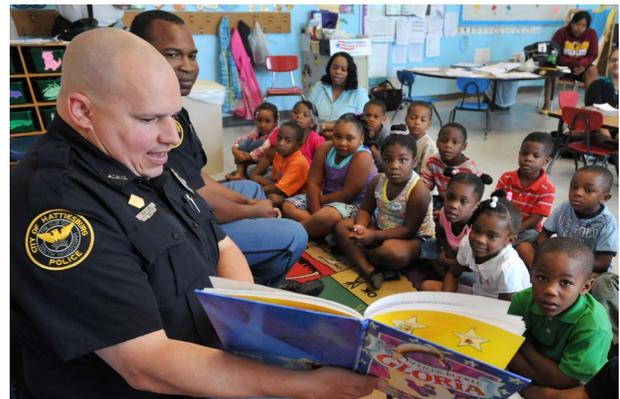


# Pay Now or Pay Much More Later:

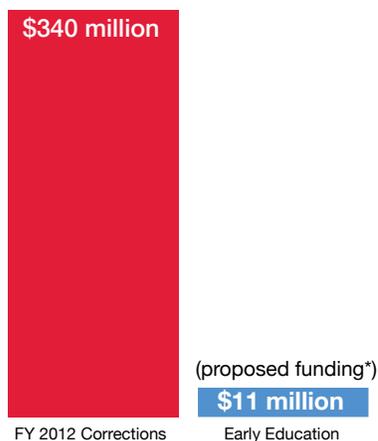
## Law enforcement leaders support high-quality early childhood development to cut crime and save money in Mississippi

*FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS is a nonpartisan anti-crime organization made up of more than 5,000 law enforcement leaders and crime survivors, including more than 70 in Mississippi. Its sheriffs, police chiefs, prosecutors and crime victims promote greater public investments in programs proven to direct kids to a better path in life, leading them away from crime and towards success.*

Law enforcement leaders in Mississippi and across the country are urging policymakers to support high-quality early childhood development. There is strong evidence that these programs can help at-risk children succeed, reduce the likelihood that they will commit crimes and save taxpayer dollars by lowering prison costs. Support for investments in Mississippi Building Blocks and in pre-kindergarten can help build a high-quality early childhood development and learning system in Mississippi.



### Mississippi state spending



\*Includes \$3 million for Mississippi Building Blocks and \$8 million for pre-kindergarten.

Source: Mississippi Department of Corrections; Mississippi Legislature

While law enforcement has been working hard to reduce crime, the state was still spending \$340 million in Fiscal Year 2012 on corrections with over 22,000 Mississippi adults locked up in either state or federal prisons on the first day of 2013. High-quality early childhood development can keep children from ever starting down the expensive path leading to prison. Research shows:

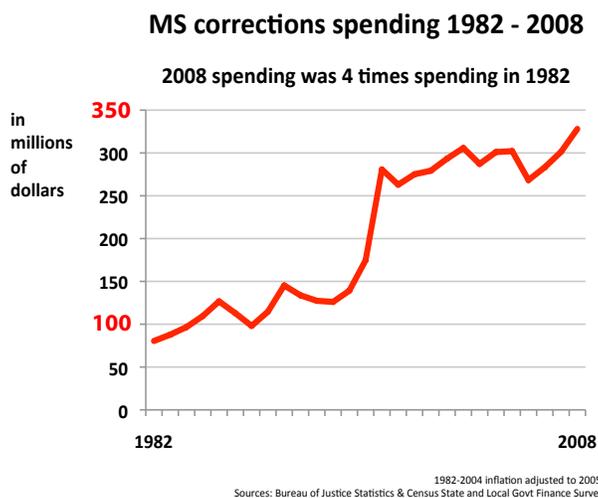
- By age 27, those left out of the high-quality Perry Preschool Project in Michigan were five times more likely to be chronic offenders than those who participated, and by age 40 those left out were 86 percent more likely to have been sentenced to jail or prison.
- Between ages 18 and 26, those left out of the Chicago Child-Parent Center pre-kindergarten program were 39 percent more likely to have spent time in jail or prison.

- While high-quality state pre-kindergarten programs do not yet have crime results, they are already helping kids succeed. For example: by second grade, the children left out of New Jersey's pre-kindergarten program were twice as likely to be held back in school.

For every child who drops out of school, uses drugs and becomes a career criminal, he or she costs society, on average, \$2.5 million over a lifetime. To prevent such costs, Nobel Economist James Heckman and Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke agree that high-quality early education is essential for our economic future. Law enforcement leaders are telling policymakers that high-quality early childhood development can play a critical role in building strong and safe communities.

## A New Direction: Preventing Crime Through Early Interventions

The United States Department of Justice and the Census Bureau report that spending on corrections in Mississippi quadrupled between 1982 and 2008.<sup>1</sup> Mississippi was still spending \$340 million in 2012 to supervise and incarcerate criminals. On the first day of 2013, the Mississippi Department of Corrections had an inmate population of over 22,000.<sup>2</sup>



## What Works

Neuroscience has shown that the architecture of the brain is rapidly developing from birth to five years of age, so those are critical years for children's development. High-quality early childhood development programs during these early years have shown they can have a positive impact and produce strong



and lasting results. Recent rigorous evaluations of state pre-kindergarten programs are also showing strong results, offering further support for the long-term study findings. If early education is of high enough quality, it can make an important difference in children's lives.

## Results from the Longer-Term Studies

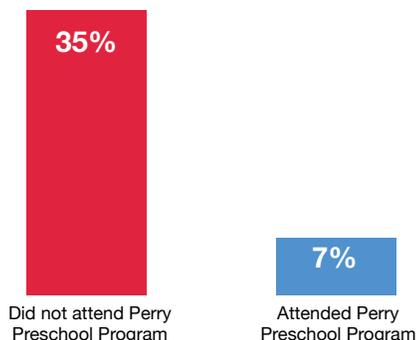
The Perry Preschool Project served disadvantaged kids in Ypsilanti, Michigan, and assessed outcomes through age 40 for the children who attended and a randomized control group. The Chicago Child-Parent Centers have now followed program graduates and a control group up to age 28. These are just a few of the impressive results the researchers have uncovered.

### Perry Preschool

- At age 27, those who had *not* been in the project were already five times more likely to be chronic lawbreakers with five or more arrests (35 percent vs. 7 percent).
- By age 40, the *nonparticipants* were 86 percent more likely to have been sentenced to jail or prison (52 percent vs. 28 percent).

### High-Quality Early Education Cuts Future Crime

Chronic law breakers by age 27



Source: Schweinhart et al., 1993

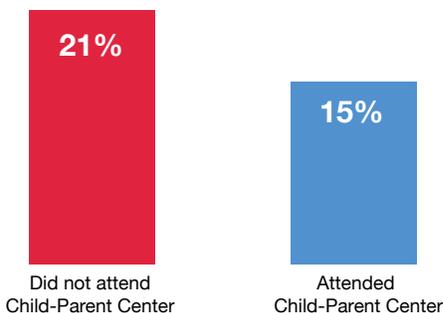
- Those who attended the preschool were 44 percent more likely to graduate from high school (65 percent vs. 45 percent).<sup>3</sup>

### Chicago Child-Parent Centers

- By age 26, those *not* in the program were 27 percent more likely to have been arrested for a felony (25 percent vs. 19 percent).
- From ages 18 through 26, those *not* in the program were 39 percent more likely to have spent time in jail or prison (21 percent vs. 15 percent).<sup>4</sup>

### Early Education Cuts Imprisonment

Individuals who did not participate in early education were 39 percent more likely to spend time in jail or prison between ages 18 and 26



Source: Reynolds, 2011

### Recent Results from Studies of State Programs

Emerging studies with strong research designs are showing that state pre-kindergarten programs can make a significant difference by setting children on a better path:

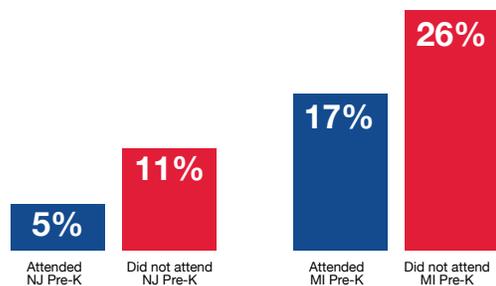
- Kids *left out* of New Jersey’s two-year pre-kindergarten program were held back in school twice as much by second grade. In Michigan’s state program, those left out were held back 51 percent more often by eighth grade.<sup>5</sup>
- Children who attended Tennessee’s pre-kindergarten program had overall gains in literacy that were 50 percent greater than for children who did not attend.<sup>6</sup>
- In Pennsylvania, the percentage of pre-kindergarten kids with developmental delays dropped from 21 percent at the time of entry to 8 percent by the time the kids

completed the program. The percentage of 3-year-old children with conduct or self-control problems dropped from 22 percent to 4 percent. Those reductions can dramatically cut the number of children needing expensive special education in Pennsylvania.<sup>7</sup>

### Pre-Kindergarten Helps Reduce Grade Retention

Children left out of NJ pre-k were twice as likely to be held back by the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade

Children left out of MI pre-k were 51% more likely to be held back by the 8<sup>th</sup> grade



Source: Frede 2009; Malofeva 2007

### What is Happening in Mississippi

Mississippi does not have a state-funded pre-kindergarten program, but they serve a large number of children through the federally funded Head Start program. Head Start serves over 27,000 Mississippi children at a cost of \$175 million and the Child Care and Development Block Grant serves 38,300 children at a cost of \$109 million.<sup>8</sup> Mississippi also has a private-public partnership called Mississippi Building Blocks that seeks to improve quality in child care centers.

Two early learning proposals are moving forward in Mississippi: Mississippi Building Blocks, and pre-kindergarten legislation. New state funding for Mississippi Building Blocks is proposed in a \$3 million line item in the Governor’s budget to provide high-quality teachers to child care center classrooms, teach children and mentor the center’s teachers. Senate Bill 2395 (House Bill 781) provides \$8 million in initial funding to support preschools that meet guidelines for teacher qualifications and research-based curricula. Additionally, in order to qualify for the funding, child care centers have to meet quality standards. These two proposals are important steps toward building a high-quality early education system in Mississippi.

By age 27, those left out of the high-quality Perry Preschool Project were five times more likely to be chronic offenders than those who participated.

Schweinhart, 1993

## Savings

The average societal savings resulting from high-quality early childhood development programs can be astounding — the Perry Preschool Project saved an average of over \$200,000 per child and the Chicago Child-Parent Centers saved over \$80,000 per child.<sup>9</sup> For Perry, every dollar invested yielded \$16 in total savings.<sup>10</sup> That is, in large part, because the average cost of a young child who grows up to drop out, use drugs and become a career criminal is \$2.5 million.<sup>11</sup>

## Quality Matters

The early learning programs that produce such strong results are all high quality. Improving the quality of programs is vital since poor-quality care and education can actually result in poorer outcomes among at-risk children. Research shows that good teachers, effective curricula, involvement by parents and coaching of parents, small classes, good teacher-student ratios and access to diagnosis and referrals for problems can make a difference in improving the likelihood that children will succeed.

## Time to Act: Invest in Early Care and Education, Focus on Improving Quality

With lost revenue and tight budgets, state governments and Congress face difficult choices. As a top priority, the law enforcement leaders of FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS call on

policymakers to support state investments in a high-quality early childhood development and learning system in Mississippi. We urge policymakers to support funding for Mississippi Building Blocks in addition to supporting final passage and funding of Senate Bill 2395 (House Bill 781).

As law enforcement leaders in Mississippi and across the nation, we are adding our voices to the many others who believe high-quality early childhood development programs are essential for growing strong, safe communities. Simply put: high-quality early education works, improves public safety and saves far more than it costs.

## Endnotes

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- 8 Administration for Children and Families. (2011) *FFY 2010 CCDF State Expenditure Data*. Retrieved on February 19, 2013 from [http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ocf/2010appropriations\\_1.pdf](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ocf/2010appropriations_1.pdf) Includes federal discretionary, mandatory, and matching funds; and state matching and maintenance of effort funds. Excludes TANF transfers to CCDF; Administration for Children and Families. (2013) *Head Start program facts, fiscal year 2011 state data*. Allocations. Retrieved on February 19, 2013 from <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/mr/factsheets/docs/hs-program-fact-sheet-2011-final.pdf>. Does not include tribal or migrant Head Start programs.
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1212 New York Ave NW, Suite 300  
Washington, DC 20005  
Tel 202.776.0027  
Fax 202.776.0110

