EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION IN MONTANA

One of the best ways to set children up for success in school and life is through early childhood education. Children’s brains are rapidly developing in their first five years of life, which is why exposure to quality early learning and nurturing relationships is critical. Access to early childhood education supports communities across the state in promoting a high-performing education system that prepares graduates for careers, college, and beyond.

60% of Montana’s 3- and 4-year-olds are not enrolled in any type of school readiness program.1

MT IS 1 OF 6 STATES without a public preschool option. 44 other states have it, leaving Montana’s children & parents far behind.2

UP TO $16 ROI for every $1 spent. Children are more likely to be ready for school, attend college, and have higher earning potential.3, 4

BETTER OUTCOMES for kids in early education, from increased math and reading skills to enhanced social and emotional development.5

$8,000 A YEAR AND UP is the average cost for hardworking families to access private early education programs for their young kids.6

6,349 CHILDREN ages 3-5 are eligible for Head Start in Montana. However, only 43% of children can access a Head Start slot.7, 8