

# Supplements to the Recommendations

## 1S Pre-Kindergarten Education

Pre-K benefits children, their families, and their communities. From improved academic outcomes to the economic savings to schools and states, the benefits of high-quality pre-K are irrefutable. The following summary of the benefits of pre-K from the national organization Pre-K Now, funded by the Pew Charitable Trusts, highlights some of the research findings about the positive impact of high-quality pre-K (Gayl, Young & Patterson 2009).

### Successful Students

- **Pre-K increases high school graduation rates.** Chicago children who attended a pre-K program were 29 percent more likely to graduate from high school than their peers who did not have pre-K. (Source: Chicago Longitudinal Study)
- **Pre-K helps children do better on standardized tests.** Michigan fourth-graders who had attended pre-K passed the state's literacy and math assessment tests at higher rates than their peers who had no pre-K. (Source: "State Efforts to Evaluate the Effects of Pre-Kindergarten," Yale University Child Study Center)
- **Pre-K reduces grade repetition.** Maryland fifth-graders who attended pre-K were 44 percent less likely to have repeated a grade than their peers who did not attend pre-K. (Source: "State Efforts to Evaluate the Effects of Pre-Kindergarten," Yale University Child Study Center)

- **Pre-K reduces the number of children placed in special education.** Among Chicago children, those who attended pre-K were 41 percent less likely to require special education services than their peers who did not attend. (Source: Chicago Longitudinal Study)

### Responsible Adults

- **Pre-K reduces crime and delinquency.** Chicago children who did not attend pre-K were 70 percent more likely to be arrested for a violent crime by age eighteen than their peers who had been pre-K participants. (Source: Chicago Longitudinal Study)
- **Pre-K lowers rates of teen pregnancy.** North Carolina children who attended pre-K were less likely to become teen parents than their peers who did not attend pre-K (26 percent vs. 45 percent). (Source: Carolina Abecedarian Project)
- **Pre-K leads to greater employment and higher wages as adults.** Forty-year-old adults in Michigan who attended pre-K as children were more likely to be employed and had a 33 percent higher average income than their peers who did not have pre-K. (Source: High/Scope Perry Preschool Project)
- **Pre-K contributes to more stable families.** Forty-year-old adults in Michigan who attended pre-K as children were more likely to report that they were getting along very well with their families than their peers who did not attend pre-K (75 percent vs. 64 percent). (Source: High/Scope Perry Preschool Project)

## Stronger Communities

- Every dollar invested in high-quality pre-K saves taxpayers up to seven dollars. Pre-K results in savings by reducing the need for remedial and special education, welfare, and criminal justice services, according to a number of studies. (Sources: “The Economics of Investing in Universal Preschool Education in California,” RAND Corporation; High/Scope Perry Preschool Project)
- Pre-K improves efficiency and productivity in the classroom. Children who attended pre-K at Head Start centers had more advanced skills in areas such as following directions, problem solving, and joining in activities, all of which allow teachers to spend more time working directly with children and less on classroom management. (Source: “The Head Start Family and Child Experiences Survey,” U.S. Department of Health and Human Services)

## References

Gayl, C. L., M. Young, and K. Patterson. 2009. *New Beginnings: Using Federal Title I Funds to Support Local Pre-K Efforts*. Federal Policy Series (September). Washington, DC: Pre-K Now, Pew Center on the States. Available for download at <<http://preknow.org>>

See also:

Chicago Longitudinal Study,  
<[www.waisman.wisc.edu/cls](http://www.waisman.wisc.edu/cls)>

Carolina Abecedarian Project,  
<[www.fpg.unc.edu/~abc](http://www.fpg.unc.edu/~abc)>

High/Scope Perry Preschool Project,  
<[www.highscope.org/Content.asp?ContentId=219](http://www.highscope.org/Content.asp?ContentId=219)>