



Create a Legacy of Leadership



Our Young Children

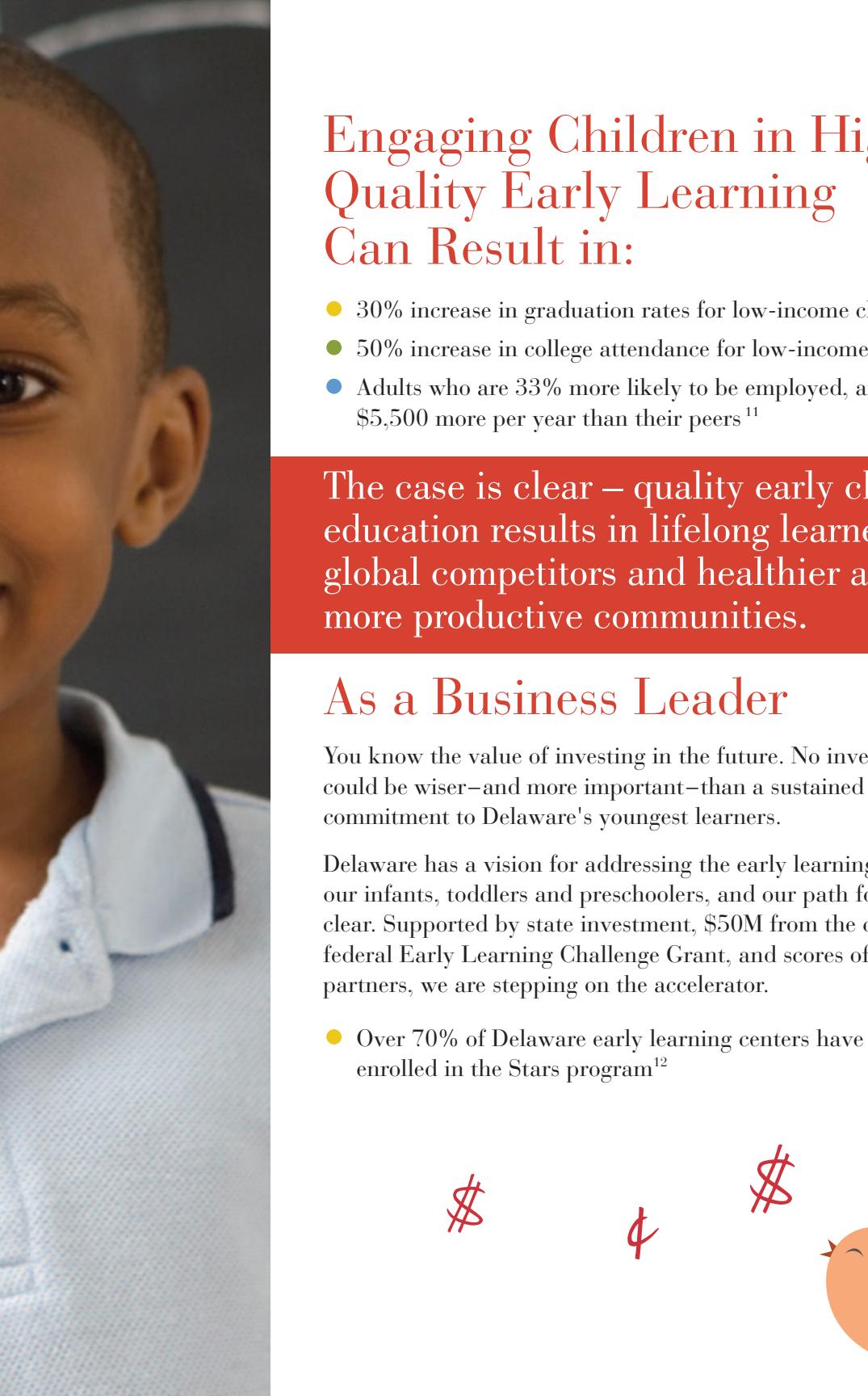
- Over 25,000 Delaware children, birth to five years old, are from low-income families – that's 40% of our children^{1,2}
- Only 33% of Delaware 4th grade students are on track in reading and math, and only 25% will catch up by 10th grade³
- 90% of a child's brain development occurs by age five⁴
- High quality early learning yields substantial benefits for low-income children – improving early literacy, language and math skills, increasing high school graduation by 30% and doubling college attendance^{5,6}

Early Childhood Education in Delaware

- Only 36% of early childhood teachers and administrators have a Bachelor's degree or higher⁷
- 20% have a high school diploma or less⁷
- \$23,920 is the average yearly salary for Delaware's early educators – the poverty level for a family of four^{8,9}

Early Childhood Development is Economic Development

- Economists estimate a 7-16% return on investment for high quality early education in reduced health care, special education, social welfare (incarceration) costs, and increased productivity and tax revenues.¹⁰



Engaging Children in High Quality Early Learning Can Result in:

- 30% increase in graduation rates for low-income children¹¹
- 50% increase in college attendance for low-income children¹¹
- Adults who are 33% more likely to be employed, and earn \$5,500 more per year than their peers¹¹

The case is clear – quality early childhood education results in lifelong learners, global competitors and healthier and more productive communities.

As a Business Leader

You know the value of investing in the future. No investment could be wiser—and more important—than a sustained commitment to Delaware's youngest learners.

Delaware has a vision for addressing the early learning needs of our infants, toddlers and preschoolers, and our path forward is clear. Supported by state investment, \$50M from the competitive federal Early Learning Challenge Grant, and scores of committed partners, we are stepping on the accelerator.

- Over 70% of Delaware early learning centers have voluntarily enrolled in the Stars program¹²



Lead the Way

The Commission on Early Education and the Economy is Delaware's leading business voice for quality early learning programs. Commission members invest their voice and influence to create a legacy of leadership for Delaware's early learners.

Advance Public Policy

Commission members inform and educate elected officials about the value of quality early learning in Delaware, and advocate for their support for continued public investment in early learning.

Create Public Awareness

Members generate public awareness through letters to the editor, op-ed pieces and industry association presentations.

Members are invited to visit and observe quality early learning at Delaware Stars programs throughout the state.

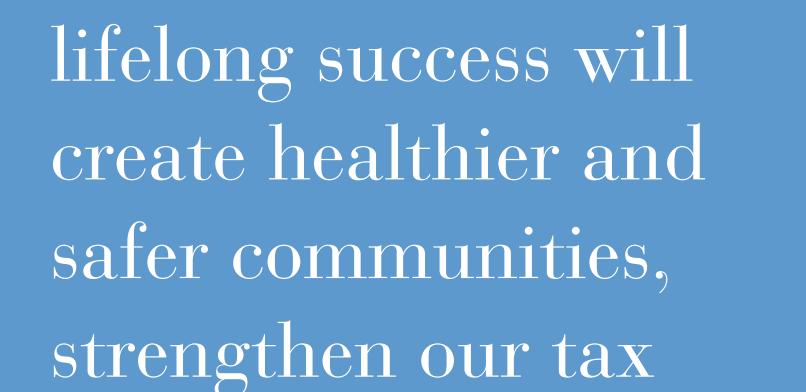
Members of the *Commission on Early Education and the Economy* are active advocates for all Delaware children.





“The payoffs of early childhood programs can be especially high...investing in such programs can pay off even from the narrow perspective of state budgets; of course, the returns to the overall economy and to the individuals themselves are much greater.”

— Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke



“Our continued investment and commitment toward ensuring each child is on a course toward lifelong success will create healthier and safer communities, strengthen our tax base, establish a more qualified local workforce.”

— Delaware Governor Jack Markell
— Nobel Laureate in Economics James Heckman



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