



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION: READINESS TO START SCHOOL

FLORIDA PTA POSITION

The Florida PTA urges the legislature to ensure that early child care and education programs are safe, nurturing, and developmentally appropriate by establishing licensing requirements based on statewide standards that reflect current research. These programs should be affordable, available, and accessible with assistance for parents with inadequate income. The Florida PTA opposes using a standardized testing tool as the basis for major decisions regarding early childhood placement or progress, or to deny entry to public education and urges its PTAs and county councils to work within their communities to make available to parents the materials, resources, and education needed to foster optimal early childhood development.

Background

The first three years of life are especially critical to laying the groundwork for future learning and personal development. Therefore, early intervention makes sense from scientific, societal, and economic perspectives. Florida's current school readiness system serves almost 135,000 eligible children under the age of five. Some children are placed in high quality early childhood education programs. But all too often, parents lack access to affordable, high quality programs. Currently, there are 46,201 children* on the waiting list for child care. High quality programs can help children enter kindergarten ready to learn, whereas without sufficient mental stimulation in the crucial, formative years, children may not develop the skills needed to facilitate learning throughout their lives.



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION: READINESS TO START SCHOOL

FLORIDA PTA POSITION

The Florida PTA urges the legislature to ensure that early child care and education programs are safe, nurturing, and developmentally appropriate by establishing licensing requirements based on statewide standards that reflect current research. These programs should be affordable, available, and accessible with assistance for parents with inadequate income. The Florida PTA opposes using a standardized testing tool as the basis for major decisions regarding early childhood placement or progress, or to deny entry to public education and urges its PTAs and county councils to work within their communities to make available to parents the materials, resources, and education needed to foster optimal early childhood development.

Background

The first three years of life are especially critical to laying the groundwork for future learning and personal development. Therefore, early intervention makes sense from scientific, societal, and economic perspectives. Florida's current school readiness system serves almost 135,000 eligible children under the age of five. Some children are placed in high quality early childhood education programs. But all too often, parents lack access to affordable, high quality programs. Currently, there are 46,201 children* on the waiting list for child care. High quality programs can help children enter kindergarten ready to learn, whereas without sufficient mental stimulation in the crucial, formative years, children may not develop the skills needed to facilitate learning throughout their lives.



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION: READINESS TO START SCHOOL

FLORIDA PTA POSITION

The Florida PTA urges the legislature to ensure that early child care and education programs are safe, nurturing, and developmentally appropriate by establishing licensing requirements based on statewide standards that reflect current research. These programs should be affordable, available, and accessible with assistance for parents with inadequate income. The Florida PTA opposes using a standardized testing tool as the basis for major decisions regarding early childhood placement or progress, or to deny entry to public education and urges its PTAs and county councils to work within their communities to make available to parents the materials, resources, and education needed to foster optimal early childhood development.

Background

The first three years of life are especially critical to laying the groundwork for future learning and personal development. Therefore, early intervention makes sense from scientific, societal, and economic perspectives. Florida's current school readiness system serves almost 135,000 eligible children under the age of five. Some children are placed in high quality early childhood education programs. But all too often, parents lack access to affordable, high quality programs. Currently, there are 46,201 children* on the waiting list for child care. High quality programs can help children enter kindergarten ready to learn, whereas without sufficient mental stimulation in the crucial, formative years, children may not develop the skills needed to facilitate learning throughout their lives.



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION: READINESS TO START SCHOOL

FLORIDA PTA POSITION

The Florida PTA urges the legislature to ensure that early child care and education programs are safe, nurturing, and developmentally appropriate by establishing licensing requirements based on statewide standards that reflect current research. These programs should be affordable, available, and accessible with assistance for parents with inadequate income. The Florida PTA opposes using a standardized testing tool as the basis for major decisions regarding early childhood placement or progress, or to deny entry to public education and urges its PTAs and county councils to work within their communities to make available to parents the materials, resources, and education needed to foster optimal early childhood development.

Background

The first three years of life are especially critical to laying the groundwork for future learning and personal development. Therefore, early intervention makes sense from scientific, societal, and economic perspectives. Florida's current school readiness system serves almost 135,000 eligible children under the age of five. Some children are placed in high quality early childhood education programs. But all too often, parents lack access to affordable, high quality programs. Currently, there are 46,201 children* on the waiting list for child care. High quality programs can help children enter kindergarten ready to learn, whereas without sufficient mental stimulation in the crucial, formative years, children may not develop the skills needed to facilitate learning throughout their lives.

Talking Points

- High quality early childhood programs help children enter school ready to learn and succeed
- Early education programs have a particularly strong impact on low income children
- Lack of readiness leads too often to costly special education, remediation, school failure, dropping out, lower lifetime wages, fewer taxes paid, more criminal acts committed, and more social services consumed.
- Cost analyses indicate that each dollar spent on quality preschool can save \$3 to \$7 for remedial education, crime, and other costs.

Benefits of Early Childhood Education **

Research shows the benefits of providing high-quality early childhood education are evident during school years and persist into adulthood. Giving students a “smart start” pays off. Better overall readiness to start school.

- Higher student achievement at all educational levels.
- Less chance of repeating a grade and better school attendance.
- Higher earning and education attainment.

*Source: Florida Partnership for School Readiness

**Source: Florida Board of Education

Talking Points

- High quality early childhood programs help children enter school ready to learn and succeed
- Early education programs have a particularly strong impact on low income children
- Lack of readiness leads too often to costly special education, remediation, school failure, dropping out, lower lifetime wages, fewer taxes paid, more criminal acts committed, and more social services consumed.
- Cost analyses indicate that each dollar spent on quality preschool can save \$3 to \$7 for remedial education, crime, and other costs.

Benefits of Early Childhood Education **

Research shows the benefits of providing high-quality early childhood education are evident during school years and persist into adulthood. Giving students a “smart start” pays off. Better overall readiness to start school.

- Higher student achievement at all educational levels.
- Less chance of repeating a grade and better school attendance.
- Higher earning and education attainment.

*Source: Florida Partnership for School Readiness

**Source: Florida Board of Education

Talking Points

- High quality early childhood programs help children enter school ready to learn and succeed
- Early education programs have a particularly strong impact on low income children
- Lack of readiness leads too often to costly special education, remediation, school failure, dropping out, lower lifetime wages, fewer taxes paid, more criminal acts committed, and more social services consumed.
- Cost analyses indicate that each dollar spent on quality preschool can save \$3 to \$7 for remedial education, crime, and other costs.

Benefits of Early Childhood Education **

Research shows the benefits of providing high-quality early childhood education are evident during school years and persist into adulthood. Giving students a “smart start” pays off. Better overall readiness to start school.

- Higher student achievement at all educational levels.
- Less chance of repeating a grade and better school attendance.
- Higher earning and education attainment.

*Source: Florida Partnership for School Readiness

**Source: Florida Board of Education

Talking Points

- High quality early childhood programs help children enter school ready to learn and succeed
- Early education programs have a particularly strong impact on low income children
- Lack of readiness leads too often to costly special education, remediation, school failure, dropping out, lower lifetime wages, fewer taxes paid, more criminal acts committed, and more social services consumed.
- Cost analyses indicate that each dollar spent on quality preschool can save \$3 to \$7 for remedial education, crime, and other costs.

Benefits of Early Childhood Education **

Research shows the benefits of providing high-quality early childhood education are evident during school years and persist into adulthood. Giving students a “smart start” pays off. Better overall readiness to start school.

- Higher student achievement at all educational levels.
- Less chance of repeating a grade and better school attendance.
- Higher earning and education attainment.

*Source: Florida Partnership for School Readiness

**Source: Florida Board of Education