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Coordinating Board for Early Childhood

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
CHILDREN'S DIVISION

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CBEC Legislative/Policy Interests – 2011

The Missouri Coordinating Board for Early Childhood (CBEC) has been charged by statute to serve as the public/private entity for coordinating a cohesive system of early childhood programs and services that will result in the healthy development of, and high quality education for, all Missouri children from birth through age five. Its powers include actions to identify and recommend initiatives to improve services for children from birth through age five.

For the 2011 legislative session, the CBEC encourages executive and legislative action on the following items:

For General Consideration

The CBEC advocates upholding the tenets of the Pew Center on the State's proposed State and Federal Resource Allocation Principles from the Partnership for America's Economic Success, including Human Capital, Young Children, Evaluation, Transparency, and Sustainability.

(See attached, or www.partnershipforsuccess.org/uploads/20100623_PartnershipPrinciples062210.pdf)

Specific Policy Considerations

The CBEC advocates maintaining the current funding level of \$13 million for Parents as Teachers in the FY12 state budget. Further, as Missouri's fiscal situation improves, the State should work to restore funding to the FY09 level of \$34M.

The CBEC advocates ensuring funding for child care assistance in the FY 12 state budget at a level necessary to sustain eligibility for program participants at 127% of the federal poverty guidelines.

The Department of Education, working with the Coordinating Board for Early Childhood and the Coalition for School Readiness, will develop a multi-year plan for a voluntary pre-k program that will serve children ages 3-5 (2 years prior to kindergarten). The plan will include:

- Finance (business) plan for pre-k expansion
- Research-based program standards
- Mixed delivery system
- Standardized child assessment process
- Data tracking system

Proposed State and Federal Resource Allocation Principles

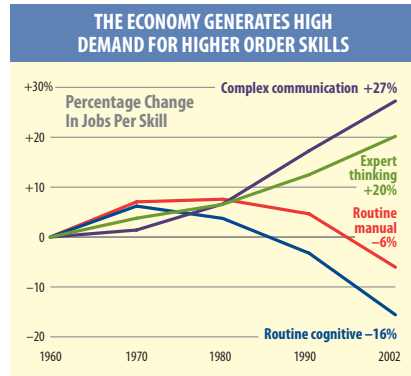
Spurring national economic growth and long-term budget sustainability requires not just smart policy decisions, but a wise framework within which to make them. This set of principles, focused on the centrality of human capital, can help federal, state and local policy makers engage in productive debate and make the hard choices needed to put our country on the path to global competitiveness. We encourage you to adapt them to your needs and to share them with colleagues and your elected leaders.

Human Capital

To achieve economic growth and fiscal sustainability, government should emphasize strengthening the skills and capacities of America's workforce.

Young Children

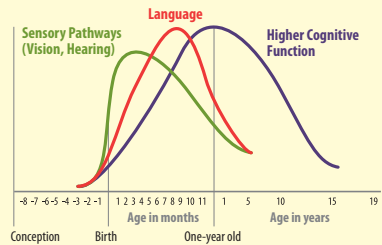
In developing human capital, our nation should focus especially on children, from before birth to five years of age, and their families.



SOURCE: David Autor, Frank Levy and Richard J. Murnane, "The Skill Content of Recent Technical Change: An Empirical Investigation." *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 118, 4 (November 2003) pp. 1279-1334. Data updated to 2002 by David Autor.

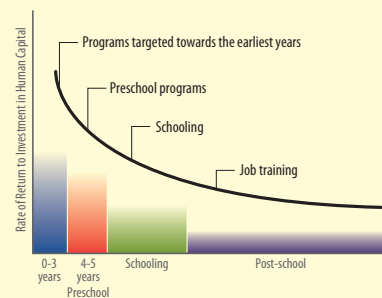
HUMAN BRAIN DEVELOPMENT IS GREATEST AT VERY YOUNG AGES

Synapse Formation and Retraction



SOURCE: C.A. Nelson in Jack P. Shonkoff and Deborah A. Phillips, eds, *From Neurons to Neighborhoods: The Science of Early Childhood Development*, National Academy Press (2000), p. 188.

RATES OF RETURN TO HUMAN CAPITAL INVESTMENT AT DIFFERENT AGES



SOURCE: J.J. Heckman, "Skill formation and the economics of investing in disadvantaged children." *Science*, 312(5782):1900-2, (June 2006).

■ **Evaluation**

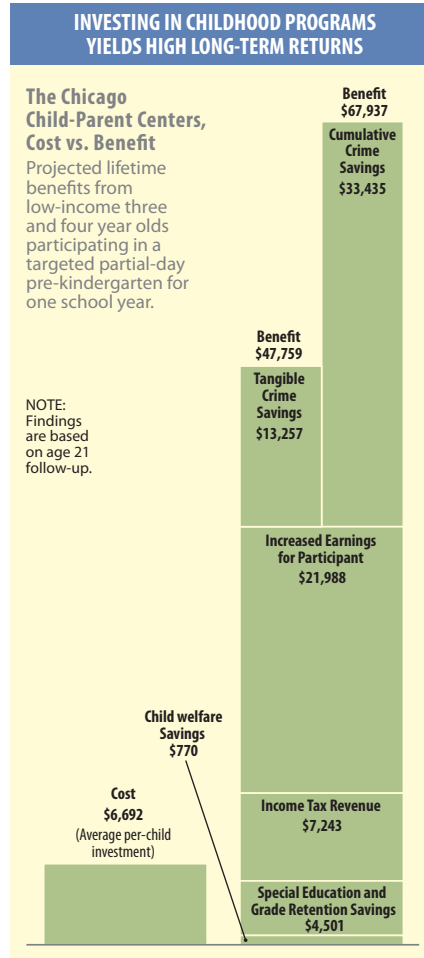
Return on investment should be a key consideration in public resource allocation decisions.

■ **Transparency**

Government should enable citizens to understand and participate in the assessment of revenue and spending decisions.

■ **Sustainability**

State and federal budgets should be viable over the long term.



SOURCE: Arthur Reynolds et al., "Age 21 Cost-Benefit Analysis of the Title I Chicago Child-Parent Centers." *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*, 24:267-303 (2002).

The Partnership for America's Economic Success is a collaborative initiative of business, economists, funders, policy leaders and advocates. It mobilizes business leaders to improve tomorrow's economy through smart policy investments in young children today. It is managed by the Pew Center on the States and funded by Robert Dugger, the George Gund Foundation, Ohio Children's Foundation, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Society for Human Resource Management, The Pew Charitable Trusts and Scholastic, Inc. More information is available at www.PartnershipforSuccess.org.