



OREGON HEAD START PRE-KINDERGARTEN (OPK)

Too many Oregon kids start school behind

- * According to the Oregon Kindergarten Survey Report, 1 in 5 kindergartners are arriving at school unprepared.
- * Children who are behind in reading in first grade have only a 1 in 8 chance of ever catching up.
- * Children who are poor readers in third grade are unlikely to graduate from high school.

OPK helps kids succeed in school and life

- * At-risk kids who attend high quality pre-kindergarten like OPK start kindergarten ready to learn, have better attitudes towards school, and are more likely to stay in school until they graduate.
- * As adults, they are more likely to be employed and less likely to spend time in jail.

OPK saves taxpayers money

- * At-risk kids who attend high quality pre-kindergarten programs like OPK are less likely to need expensive remedial and special education programs or incarceration.
- * As adults, they earn more and pay more taxes. They also use fewer social services.

Oregon needs a highly-educated workforce

- * Oregon needs a well-educated workforce if it is to compete in a globally competitive economy. OPK makes sure that kids arrive at school ready to learn, putting them on the right track for academic success. That's why so many of our business and civic leaders have joined the Ready for School campaign.

If we wait until kindergarten, it's too late

- * 90% of brain development occurs before age 6. If we wait until after this window has closed, we've missed a critical opportunity to positively impact a child's life.
- * *Inequality at the Starting Gate*, a study released by the Economic Policy Institute, demonstrated that the academic achievement gap between children from low-income families and their more advantaged peers is already well established before kids even get to the kindergarten door.