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## **OVERVIEW**

Learning knows no boundaries; children begin a lifetime of learning from their earliest moments. It is with this understanding that Texans acknowledge the importance and power of early childhood education programs in determining the success of Texas children. It is no secret that voluntary, quality pre-k programs have long prepared children for educational success, but investing in high-quality voluntary early childhood education also offers substantial strength to the future economic and fiscal position of Texas. The long-term impact of voluntary, high-quality pre-k programs – particularly for low-income children - translates into significant economic, social and educational benefits (narrowing achievement gaps, reducing number of dropouts, gaining the competitive advantage, saving taxpayer dollars) with returns far exceeding the costs.

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## **TEXANS SUPPORT PRE-K**

*WHEREAS, Texans of every income bracket and geographic region of the state agree: low-income Texas children who attend voluntary pre-kindergarten (pre-k) are better equipped to succeed in school and in life. And, an overwhelming majority of Texans want quality pre-k made available for all children, and,*

## **PRE-K BOASTS STRONG RETURN ON INVESTMENT**

*WHEREAS, the Texas Education Agency noted in its 2010-2011 Legislative Appropriations Request the work of the Texas Program for Society and Health at the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy at Rice University on the high returns of quality pre-kindergarten and as the Texas A&M University's Bush School of Government & Public Service's Cost-Benefit Analysis of Universally-Accessible Pre-Kindergarten Education in Texas found that for every **\$1.00 invested** in quality pre-k programs in Texas, the state will incur at least **\$3.50 return** on investment generating significant public and private benefits and creating sound fiscal policy, and,*

## **PRE-K BUILDS THE TEXAS WORKFORCE**

*WHEREAS, our state/nation as it enters the 21<sup>st</sup> century finds increasing challenges in a competitive global marketplace, pre-k builds the foundation for success in math, science and technology, and,*

## **PRE-K SAVES MONEY TODAY AND TOMORROW**

*WHEREAS, Texas' business leaders and educators agree that pre-kindergarten supports today's workers and builds tomorrow's workforce, and,*

## **PRE-K INACCESSIBLE TO WORKING FAMILIES**

*WHEREAS, because of the downturn in the economy working families are struggling to make ends meet, this includes the high cost of childcare. Access to high-quality pre-k programs is essential to keeping the Texas workforce in-tact and increasing the likelihood for financial stability for Texas families.*

## **PRE-K IMPROVES HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES**

*WHEREAS, pre-k programs that are not unfunded mandates to school districts have been shown to have a significant impact on high school graduation rates, instilling a culture of learning and a standard for educational achievement,*

## **TEXANS MUST ACT FOR PRE-K**

*THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Board Chair of United Way of Williamson County joins other community leaders in asking state lawmakers to make pre-kindergarten programs the highest priority during the 2009 Texas Legislature.*

  
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Sue McMillin, Board Chair  
United Way of Williamson County

10/15/08  
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Date