

Early Childhood Education Summary

Investment in Early Childhood Education delivers:

1) better performing public schools

- higher graduation rates (*Lifetime Effects: The High/Scope Perry Preschool Study Through Age 40*, June 2005)
- lower cost for remedial and special education (*Age 21 Cost-Benefit Analysis of the Title 1 Chicago Child-Parent Centers*, February 2002)

2) lower crime rates (*Lifetime Effects: The High/Scope Perry Preschool Study Through Age 40*, June 2005)

- lower criminal justice costs and reduced costs to crime victims (*Age 21 Cost-Benefit Analysis of the Title 1 Chicago Child-Parent Centers*, February 2002)

3) economic growth

- higher employment, earnings and savings rate (*Lifetime Effects: The High/Scope Perry Preschool Study Through Age 40*, June 2005)
- increased tax revenue to the community (*Age 21 Cost-Benefit Analysis of the Title 1 Chicago Child-Parent Centers*, February 2002)
- 12% return on investment in preschool education (A. Rolnick and R. Grunewald, *Early Childhood Development: Economic Development with a High Public Return*, December 2003)

Ohio's Early Learning Initiative (ELI) program in Franklin County:

- ✓ ELI was launched in FY 2006 to serve 12,000 at-risk children of low income, working families in Ohio. 1,678 ELI positions were allotted to Franklin County.
- ✓ Franklin County filled approximately 2/3 of the number of student positions allotted by the state, leaving approximately 500 positions unfilled and \$5,000,000 of funding unused. (The number of positions unfilled was not due to a lack of eligible children.)
- ✓ Since then, the number of positions allotted to Franklin County has decreased by 25% and they still fail to fill the allotted positions.
- ✓ The estimated lost economic benefits and/or cost to Franklin County of not providing early childhood education to 500 children may be \$93 million over 35 years. (*Lifetime Effects: The High/Scope Perry Preschool Study Through Age 40*, June 2005)

Improving Early Childhood Education in Franklin County:

- Of the 4,325 students who entered kindergarten in CPS in September 2007, 1,858 (or 42%) tested as "not ready" for Kindergarten according to the Ohio Department of Education's Kindergarten Readiness Assessment.
- Closing the school readiness gap calls for an ambitious agenda with two strategies considered essential to helping children often identified as at-risk for academic failure due to poverty: 1) assuring that children are receiving instruction by teachers who are knowledgeable and competent; and 2) emphasizing early literacy development (*American Medical Association's Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine*, August 2007)
- Franklin County must take a leadership role to improve the availability and delivery of Early Childhood Education.
- Proposed approach: Create a full-time position reporting to the Franklin County Commissioners that will be responsible for
 - 1) achieving 100% enrollment of allotted ELI positions,
 - 2) increasing the number of allotted positions in Franklin County as new funds are available, and
 - 3) optimizing the use of other state and federal funded Early Childhood Education programs.