

The Link Between Thriving Children and Economic Security: Creating Equity in Early Childhood for Our Common Good



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Economic security influences health and safety AND result in a child's ability to learn and succeed, **BUT...**

- Child poverty has increased, despite recent economic recovery, AND is the most serious challenge to children, youth and families
- Race, ethnicity and income level of families predict disparities in child outcomes that begin before birth and worsen as children grow older
- Increases in economic stressors have led to disturbing trends in identified and confirmed victims of child abuse and neglect



Michigan ranks behind 32 other states, including every Midwest state, for overall child well-being.

2015 Indicator Rankings

- Education: **37**
- Economic Well-being: **33**
- Family & Community: **29**
- Health: **23**

2015 Indicator Rankings Worsened

- More than **2:3** fourth graders are not proficient in reading
- **54%** of our children are not attending preschool or quality child care
- **24%** of our children are in poverty
- **33%** of our children's parents lack secure employment
- **12%** of our children birth to 5 with social, emotional & behavioral problems don't receive mental health services



Michigan's Early Childhood Outcomes on Governor's Dashboard

1. Children born healthy
2. Children healthy, thriving & developmentally on track from birth-3rd grade
3. Children developmentally ready to succeed in school at the time of school entry
4. Children prepared to succeed in 4th grade & beyond by reading proficiently by the end of 3rd grade



Michigan's Disparities in Meeting These Outcomes

1. Born Healthy

- Michigan ranks **37th** in infant mortality rate.
- Black infant mortality is **2-3** times greater.
- Infant mortality is one of the most significant indicators of the health of the overall community.
- Infant mortality reflects the status of maternal health, the accessibility and quality of primary health care, and the availability of supportive services in the community.



2. Healthy, thriving developmentally on track

- More than **1/3** of Michigan children start kindergarten unprepared.
- The achievement gap emerges as early as **9 months** of age.
- White children are more likely to attend a high quality preschool program than their African American children and Hispanic/Latino children are least likely of any group to attend preschool.
- Children from low-income families hear as many as **30 million** fewer words than their more affluent peers before the age of **4**.
- But **40%** of infants and toddlers who receive early intervention services will not need special education in prek-12th grade.



Michigan's Disparities in Meeting These Outcomes

3. Developmentally ready to succeed in school

- Boys of all races represent 54% of preschoolers but more than **80%** of those suspended more than once.
- African American children represent 18% of preschool population, but make up **42%** of preschoolers suspended once and **48%** of those suspended more than once.



4. Reading proficiently by end of 3rd grade

- Michigan is **40th** in reading proficiency and continues to fall
- Reading proficiency is key to economic growth and financial security for the state and its children.
- **37%** of African American students & **47%** of Hispanic students are reading proficiently in 3rd grade compared to 69% of White students.
- Children not reading proficient by 3rd grade are **4 times** more likely NOT to graduate from high school on time.





WHAT IS NEEDED:

Expand Investments in
Evidence-Based Home Visiting

Increase Investment in Child
Abuse Prevention Services &
Mental Health Services

FOR THESE OUTCOMES:

Increased Parenting Skills That
Promote Stability & Learning

Decreased Child Maltreatment &
Child Care Expulsions

 Support Families to Provide Safe & Stable Home Environments

★ Focus on Improving 3rd Grade Reading to Increase Graduation Rates & Employment Opportunities

WHAT IS NEEDED:

Increase investments in high quality preschool

Invest state resources into Early On for adequate early intervention

FOR THESE OUTCOMES:

High quality preschool contributes to improvement in literacy skills

Increased interventions develop social & cognitive skills that prevent achievement gaps





Adequately Support Neediest Families With Income & Child Care Assistance

WHAT IS NEEDED:

- Reinstatement EITC
- Increase eligibility caps for child care assistance
- Expand before and after school, and summer learning opportunities

FOR THESE OUTCOMES:

- Helping Parents Will Help Children
- Quality, Affordable Child Care Improves Parent Attendance at Work & School
- Developing Social & Cognitive Skills Increases Achievement



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GbSp88PBe9E>

