



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

FORGING A BRIGHT ECONOMIC FUTURE: LA B TO 3

Louisiana's Early Childhood Care and Education Commission is charged with creating a vision and framework for the future of high-quality early care and education in Louisiana. Without an increased and ongoing investment in high-quality early care and education, the State of Louisiana stands to lose \$12 billion over the next decade. The Commission respectfully requests that the Legislature continue the Commission's role and make the investments outlined below to avoid losses to the state.



The Louisiana Department of Education committed nearly \$46 million in stimulus dollars from 2020 through 2022 as a bridge to long-term funding. However, **the Legislature needs to act now** to continue the momentum of this investment thus far and to fully realize the benefits of high-quality early care and learning, to the workforce, businesses, children, and families.

To that end, the Commission recommends that the Legislature:

1

Invest \$115 million of state funds to fully launch LA B to 3 and invest an increase of that amount every year for 10 years.

WHY? This investment will mean 9,200 more children can be served annually, bring more teachers into the state's workforce, and support thousands of small child care businesses across Louisiana.

2

Identify additional and ongoing funding sources for the Early Childhood Education Fund to match and incentivize local investment.

WHY? With the establishment of the Fund, the State promised to match local investments in high-quality early care and education; however, the State is currently defaulting on that promise as local government investments in early care and education significantly outpace the balance of the Fund.

3

Reauthorize the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission.

WHY? The Commission will help ensure sustainability of the state's current investments, monitor the economic impact of early care and education in the state, and identify innovative ways to stabilize and grow the sector.



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This evidence-based request is supported by the following data related to the impact of the early care and education sector on the state's workforce, economy, and children and families. **In short, high-quality early care and education is a proven catalyst for economic development and can help protect the state against losses stemming from an unstable workforce.**



Businesses need working parents to show up reliably, which requires **RELIABLE CHILD CARE.**



Working parents need a **SAFE, NURTURING, ENRICHING PLACE** for their children to go while they do their jobs.

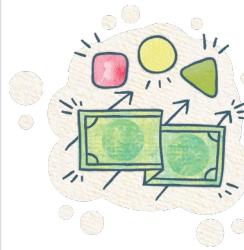
↓ Louisiana's economy loses an estimated **\$1.3 BILLION ANNUALLY** due to employee absences related to child care issues.



2 OUT OF 3 children under five have both parents or their single parent working.



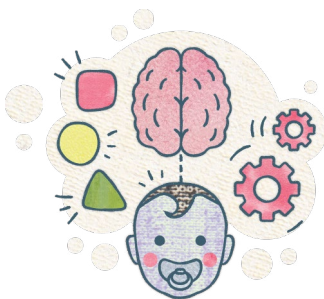
Our economic future depends on **A WELL-EDUCATED, SKILLED WORKFORCE.**



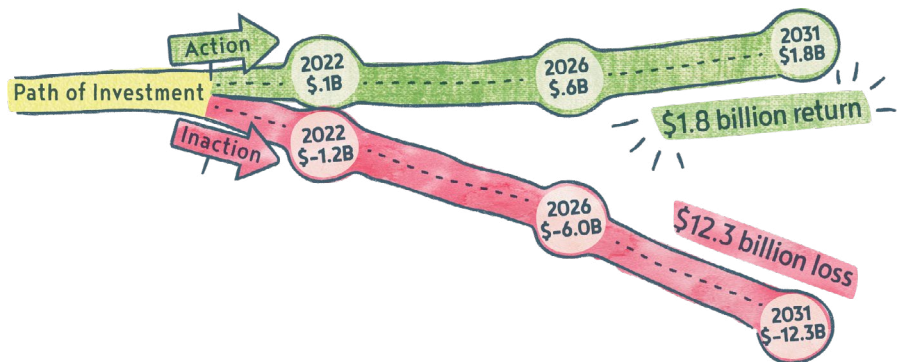
Early care & education providers are **SMALL BUSINESSES THAT CONTRIBUTE TO LOCAL ECONOMIES.**

High-quality early care & education is tied to **HIGHER LEVELS OF COLLEGE GRADUATION AND JOB-HOLDING FOR ADULTS.**

A fall 2021 survey found that **ONE-THIRD** of early care and education providers who responded remained **UNSURE OF HOW LONG THEIR BUSINESS COULD AFFORD TO OPERATE.**



90% OF BRAIN DEVELOPMENT OCCURS BEFORE AGE 5.



\$1.8 BILLION RETURN OR **\$12.3 BILLION LOSS**
on investment in a decade

a stunning and avoidable **\$12.3 BILLION LOSS**