

**EARLY EDUCATION
WITH LIMITED RESOURCES, WHAT IS THE NEXT STEP IN MINNESOTA?**

UNTARGETED APPROACHES	Additional Annual Cost
COVER ALL. Provide up to full-day, full-year access to quality early education to all Minnesota children under age five at all income levels, "Both/And."	\$2.1 billion
UPK TO COVER ALL 4-YR OLDS, LEAVE YOUNGER AND POORER BEHIND. Provide school-day, school-year Universal Pre-K (UPK) to all 4-year-olds regardless of income, but don't help younger low-income children.	\$ 443 million

TARGETED APPROACHES	Additional Annual Cost
COVER ALL LOW-INCOME CHILDREN UNDER 5. Provide up to full-day, full-year quality early ed to all low-income children under age five.	\$ 423 million
COVER ALL LOW-INCOME 3- AND 4 YEAR OLDS, SHIFT EXISTING CCAP TO COVER YOUNGER. Provide up to full-day, full-year quality early ed to all low-income 3- and 4-year-olds via a dedicated funding source and shift the CCAP funds currently used for 3- and 4-year-olds to help more infants and toddlers (would need to change existing policy to ensure CCAP funds were used in quality programs).	\$ 108 million
COVER ALL LOW-INCOME 3- AND 4 YEAR OLDS. Provide up to full-day, full-year quality early ed options to all low-income 3- and 4-year-olds, but don't help younger low-income children (would require some reforms).	\$ 46 million
Note: Could also supplement a targeted approach with a sliding scale scholarship or tax credit targeting middle class families who struggle to afford quality early care and education programs. Either approach should ensure that investments are only going to quality programs.	\$63 to \$223 million Depending on policy design

2018 Close Gaps by 5 Analysis

RESEARCH TELLS US

TARGET. Highest taxpayer return-on-investment (ROI) is from helping low-income children.

- Little to no public ROI for helping families who can already afford child care.

START EARLY. At-risk children need help early and over multiple years to get ready for Kindergarten.

- Achievement gaps open as early as 9 months of age.
- Up to 80% of brain development happens by age 3.

DEMAND QUALITY. Highest ROI assumes high quality programs that prepare children for kindergarten.

- Low-quality programs can actually set children back.

KEEP IT FLEXIBLE. Parents need options to find programs that fit their work schedule, culture and location. One type doesn't fit all. They also need portability to maintain learning continuity.

- Survey: 96% of low-income Minnesota parents agree they should "be able to choose from a variety of programs that are based in schools, centers, homes, religious organizations or nonprofit organizations."