**New Jersey**

Access to High Quality Early Learning Matters!

Research shows that during the earliest years of a child’s life:

- 700 - 1,000 new neural connections form every second
- Genetics plus experiences shape the developing brain
- The foundation forms for future cognitive abilities
- Vocabulary at age 3 can predict 3rd Grade Reading Achievement

High Quality Programs Depend on a Quality Workforce
Low Wages Undermine Quality

### New Jersey Median Annual Workforce Earnings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Median Annual Earnings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Teachers</td>
<td>$22,070</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool Teachers</td>
<td>$35,160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Start Teachers</td>
<td>$35,468</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Education Preschool Teachers</td>
<td>$62,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten Teachers</td>
<td>$61,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elementary School Teachers</td>
<td>$63,960</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) eligibility for a family of three: $26,124

### New Jersey Demographics

- **639,750** Children Under Age 6
- **232,618** Children Under Age 6 Below 200% of Poverty
- **66.4%** Children Under Age 6 Living in Households with All Parents Working
- **37%** Families Led by a Single Mother with Children Under Age 5 Living in Poverty
- **17.9%** Children Under Age 5 Living in Poverty

### New Jersey Median Annual Wages for Other Occupations

- Parking Lot Attendants: $21,150
- Manicurist & Pedicurist: $26,330
- Word Processors/Typists: $41,010
- Nurses: $79,230