

# NEW MEXICO

## 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

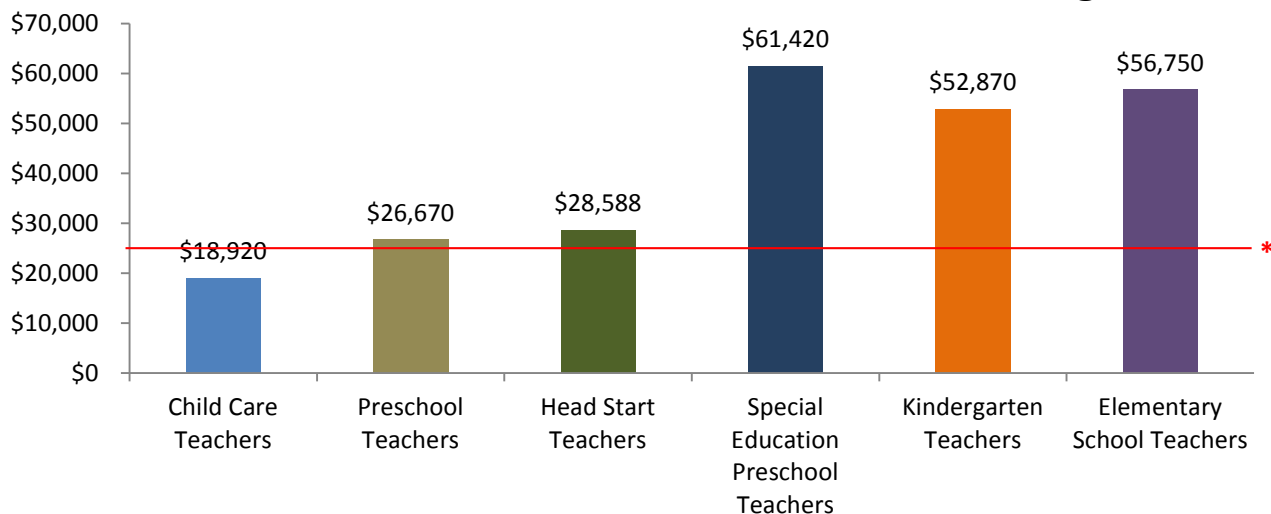
Genetics plus experiences shape the developing brain

The foundation forms for future cognitive abilities

Vocabulary at age 3 can predict 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Reading Achievement

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

### New Mexico Median Annual Workforce Earnings



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

## New Mexico Demographics

- 163,317** Children Under Age 6
- 99,951** Children Under Age 6 Below 200% of Poverty
- 58.2%** Children Under Age 6 Living in Households with All Parents Working
- 54.4%** Families Led by a Single Mother with Children Under Age 5 Living in Poverty
- 33.3%** Children Under Age 5 Living in Poverty

## New Mexico Median Annual Wages for Other Occupations



Parking Lot Attendants  
\$21,750



Manicurist & Pedicurist  
\$17,970<sup>†</sup>



Word Processors/Typists  
\$33,310



Nurses  
\$64,710

<sup>†</sup> Annual wages are from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (May 2015). NM manicurist & pedicurist data was not available for 2015; 2014 BLS wage data is reflected instead.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 1 Year data (2014); U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics (2015); Head Start Program Information Report (2015).

