

# MAINE

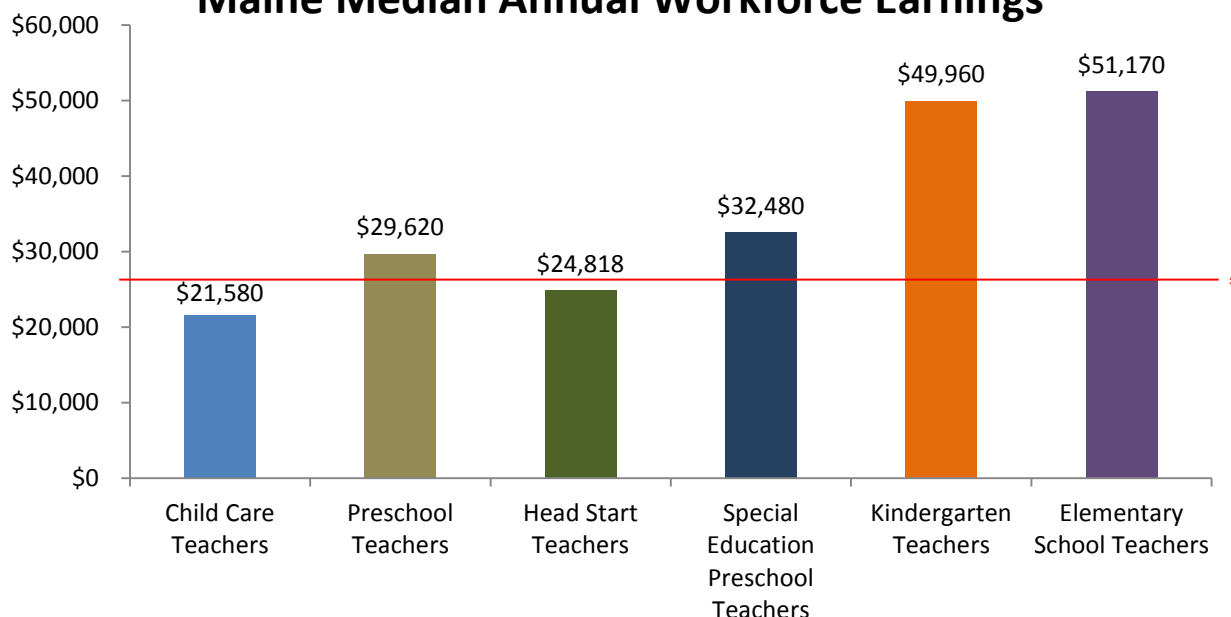
## Access to High Quality Early Learning Matters!

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

### Maine Median Annual Workforce Earnings



### Maine Demographics

- 75,585** Children Under Age 6
- 31,942** Children Under Age 6 Below 200% of Poverty
- 68.5%** Children Under Age 6 Living in Households with All Parents Working
- 54.7%** Families Led by a Single Mother with Children Under Age 5 Living in Poverty
- 25.1%** Children Under Age 5 Living in Poverty

### Maine Median Annual Wages for Other Occupations

- Parking Lot Attendants: \$25,500
- Manicurist & Pedicurist: \$18,540
- Word Processors/Typists: \$36,310
- Nurses: \$62,840

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).

