

Creating Opportunity: An Action Plan for Early Childhood Education
 By the Mecklenburg County Early Childhood Education Executive Committee
 Background Key Tables

Current Early Care and Education Need

**Mecklenburg County Children
 Birth to Age 5**

- **70,716** children in Mecklenburg County are under age 5.
- **51,411** children under age 6 live in families where all adults are working
- **22,107** children under age 5 are eligible for a child care subsidy (working families below 200% of the federal poverty level).
- **12,000** (+/-200) children enter kindergarten annually

Access Gaps

- **5%** of income-eligible children birth to age 5 (living in poverty) participate in Head Start
- **19%** of income-eligible children (working families below 200% of poverty) receive child care assistance; there are nearly as many children under age five on the child care waiting list (3,905) as those who receive assistance (4,164).
- **Less than one-third** of 4-year-old children participate in the two public pre-k programs operating in Mecklenburg County to serve 4-year-old children: Bright Beginnings and NC Pre-K.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau; Child Care Resources Inc. (CCRI); Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS); and the Bethlehem Center of Charlotte. June 2017.

Mecklenburg County’s Youngest Children, Number of Children Currently Served

**Mecklenburg County’s Youngest Children
 Current ECE Assistance, Birth to Age 5**

- | | |
|---|-------|
| • Child care subsidy: | 4,164 |
| • Bright Beginnings: | 2,800 |
| • NC Pre-K: | 1,006 |
| • Head Start & Early Head Start: | 600 |
| • Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships: | 203 |

Sources: Child Care Resources Inc. (CCRI); Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS); and the Bethlehem Center of Charlotte. (June 2017).

Challenge: Family Affordability – Current Annual Center-based Costs of Child Care

Annual Cost of Child Care Center-based Programs in Mecklenburg County

Infants:	\$11,700
Toddlers:	\$11,388
2-3 Year-Olds:	\$10,868
3-4 Year-Olds:	\$10,452
4-5 Year-Olds:	\$10,296

Source: Child Care Resources Inc. (CCRI), June 30, 2017

Waiting Lists for Early Care and Education Programs

Early Care and Education Waiting Lists In Mecklenburg County (June 2017)

Child Care Subsidy Under Age 5:	3,905
Bright Beginnings, 4-year-olds:	1,063
NC Pre-K, 4-year-olds:	1,892
Head Start and Early Head Start:	1,449
Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships:	167

* Waiting list numbers cannot be totaled without the possibility of duplicating children who may be on more than one of these lists. Waiting lists are a snapshot in time.

Sources: Child Care Subsidy and EHS-CCP, Child Care Resources Inc. (CCRI); public pre-k, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS); and Head Start and EHS, Bethlehem Center of Charlotte. June 2017.

Return on Investment (ROI)

High-Quality ECE Programs Economic Return on Investment (ROI)

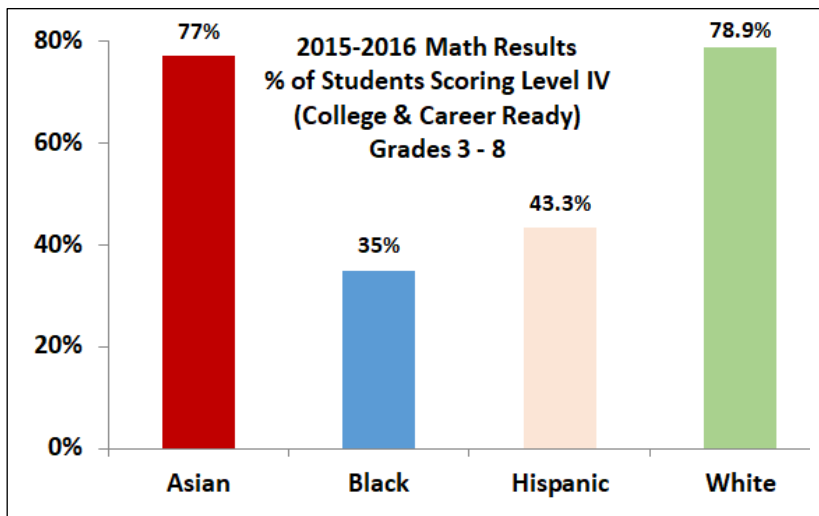
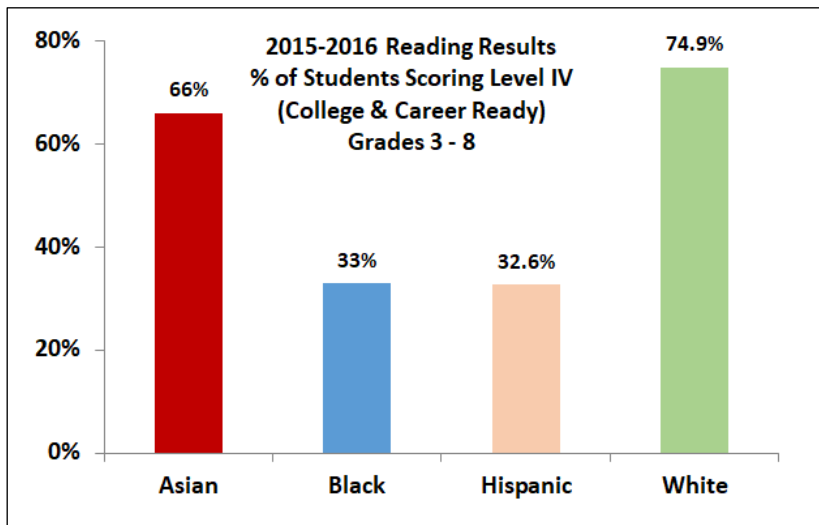
Nobel Laureate economist James Heckman released new research in 2016 that found:

- Every dollar spent on high-quality, birth-to-five programs for disadvantaged children delivers a 13% annual return on investment.
- Children were not the only beneficiaries – the economic benefits of the additional wages earned by parents with access to high-quality care paid for the cost of the program after five years.

Heckman, J., Garcia, J., Leaf, D., Prados, M., Center for the Economics of Human Development at the University of Chicago. The Life Cycle Benefits of an Influential Early Childhood Program. Working Paper 2016-035. (Dec. 2016).

https://heckmanequation.org/assets/2017/01/Garcia_Heckman_Leaf_etal_2016_life-cycle-benefits-ecp_r1-p.pdf

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) Data



Source: Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) Budget Book, 2017-2018

<http://www.cms.k12.nc.us/mediaroom/Documents/Budget%20Book%202017-2018%20Proposed%20Budget%20Recommendation.pdf>

Public Costs of Grade Retention for Children

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) 3rd Graders Retained in Grade (2015-2016)

- 2,401 students
- \$22.5 million cost for these students to repeat a grade in school

Source: Charlotte-Mecklenburg Adopted Budget for 2016-2017, (August 2016). Per student spending for 2016-2017 is \$9,396.

<http://www.cms.k12.nc.us/cmsdepartments/Finance/Documents/2016-2017%20Adopted%20Budget%20WEB%20VERSION.pdf>;

Department of Public Instruction, Report to the North Carolina General Assembly, Improve K-3 Literacy Accountability Measures (October 2016).

<http://ncga.state.nc.us/documents/sites/committees/JLEOC/Reports%20Received/2016%20Reports%20Received/Improve%20K-3%20Literacy%20Accountability%20Measures%2010%2015%202016.pdf>

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) Student Demographics

CMS Student Population At A Glance 2016-2017

- American Indian/Multiracial = 3%
- Asian = 6%
- African-American = 39%
- Hispanic/Latino = 23%
- White = 29%
- Economically Disadvantage Students = 60%
- Native languages = 197
- Countries represented = 183
- Limited English Proficient = 17,210
- Students with Special Needs = 13,777

Source: Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) Budget Book, 2017-2018; student population 147,157 in 2016-2017.

<http://www.cms.k12.nc.us/mediaroom/Documents/Budget%20Book%202017-2018%20Proposed%20Budget%20Recommendation.pdf>

Economic Opportunity (as seen through county median wages)

Mecklenburg County Median Annual Earnings by Educational Attainment Population 25 Years and Older

Less than high school graduate	\$21,409
High school graduate	\$28,460
Some college or associate's degree	\$33,073
Bachelor's degree	\$53,632
Graduate or professional degree	\$70,403

- High school graduates compared to individuals without a high school degree earn \$7,051 more per year and \$282,040 more over a life-time (40 years)
- Individuals with an associate's degree compared to those who dropped out of high school earn \$11,664 more per year and \$466,560 more over a life-time (40 years)
- Individuals with a college degree compared to those who dropped out of high school earn \$32,223 more per year and \$1.2 million more over a life-time (40 years).

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Table S2001, Earnings in the Past 12 Months, 2016 American Community Survey, 1 Year Estimates.

https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_16_1YR_S2001&prodType=table