


NC STATE UNIVERSITY  Institute for Emerging Issues

kidonomics

INVESTING EARLY IN OUR FUTURE

“Third-Grade Reading Proficiency: Key to Closing the Skills Gap”

A Conversation with North Carolina
Business Leaders

National “Skills Gap”

Nationwide by 2020,
companies will struggle to fill

5 million jobs

because of a lack of training
and education.

BRT Companies' Expected Future Degree Requirements

- **37% increase** in Bachelor's degrees
- **40% increase** in graduate degrees

North Carolina's "Skills Gap"

In North Carolina:

- 67% of jobs will require degrees and training beyond high school by 2020.
- Only 42% of North Carolinians have that level of education.

Looking Beyond 2020

65% of jobs elementary school students will be doing in the future **do not yet exist**

The Impact of Technology

15 million jobs will be
created over next decade
because of **automation** and
artificial intelligence

Skills for Future Technology

- **STEM**, including digital, analytics, and computer programming
- **Critical thinking**
- **Communication**
- **Collaboration**

3rd-Grade Reading Proficiency: A Critical Milestone

Through 3rd grade, children
learn to read.

After that, they **read to
learn.**

“Why Reading Matters”

A report by the Business Roundtable



A CEO ACTION PLAN

To Support Improved U.S. Literacy Rates

3rd- Grade Reading Proficiency Drives College Enrollment

9th graders who read proficiently
in 3rd grade are:

3 times more likely to go to
college

Failing to Read Proficiently

Students not reading proficiently
by end of 3rd grade are:

4 times more likely
to **drop out** of school.

Business Roundtable State-Policy Recommendations

- Expand access to **high-quality pre-K**
- Offer high-quality, **full-day kindergarten**
- **Use data** to track student progress
- **Equip educators** to be more effective
- Require **systemic interventions**
- Create a **0-8 comprehensive, aligned system**

Task Force of NC CEOs

- AT&T
- Bank of America
- BB&T
- Biltmore Farms
- Cone Health
- Ingersoll Rand
- Martin Marietta
- Medical Mutual
- National Gypsum
- PNC Financial Services
- Red Hat
- SAS

Reading Proficiency of North Carolina Students

62% of North Carolina

4th graders are

not reading proficiently

North Carolina CEOs' 2017 Policy Recommendations

- Implement a **comprehensive 0-8 system**
- Develop **connected data systems**
- Expand access to **high-quality, full-day pre-K**

Progress:
Comprehensive 0-8 System

Creation of new **Birth-**
through-3rd-Grade (B-3)
Interagency Council

Importance of Data Collection

- Key to understanding **student progress**
- Data must be **relevant** to reading proficiency
- Cross-agency data must “**talk to each other**”

B-3 Interagency Council's Charge

- Standards and assessments
- Data-driven improvement and outcomes
- Educator preparation and effectiveness
- Instruction and environment
- Transitions and continuity
- Family engagement
- Governance and funding

**Progress:
Connected Data Systems**

**B-3 Interagency Council must
address data-driven
outcomes and measures of
performance**

U.S. News & World Report Rankings

North Carolina is:

- **1st** for **quality** of its pre-K program
- **41st** for **access** to pre-K programs

Progress:

Increased Access to NC Pre-K

- Increased access for **3,525 students** from 2017-2018
- Cost: **\$27 million** over two years

CEOs' Goals for 2018

- **Maintain – perhaps increase – funding** for NC Pre-K
- **Move away from “waiting lists”** as metric for demand and need
- Mitigate **adverse consequences** from **K-3 class size reductions**

QUESTIONS?

