

Charting a Path Forward: Blue Ribbon Commission Findings

Early Childhood Development

- 80% of brain structure created in first three years of life
- Early childhood experiences lay the foundation for school success

North Carolina Data

- 50% of first graders reading proficiently
- 38% of fourth graders reading proficiently
- 18% of NC 11th graders passed all four ACT college and career readiness benchmarks
- 41% of NC students scored below 17 on the ACT, the minimum for entry into UNC System institutions
- 67% of jobs in 2020 will require postsecondary education
- 59% of North Carolinians have postsecondary education

NC Early Childhood Funding

- Federal: \$1 billion+ (Fiscal Year 2017)
- State: \$365 million (Fiscal Year 2017)
 - Early education funding: 1.1% of state budget (est.)

Key Findings of the Commission

- Public and private capital play different roles
- Local community capacity to invest varies greatly
- Even the wealthiest communities able to self-fund a fraction of their needs
- Demand accountability for all investments