



American Business Leaders' Views On Publicly-funded Pre-Kindergarten and the Advantages to the Economy

Submitted to:
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December 2005

I. Methodology

This is a telephone survey of business leaders conducted by Zogby International. The target sample is 205 interviews with approximately 29 questions asked of Fortune 1000 companies and other companies with at least 1,000 employees, chosen at random from a list of Zogby-compiled business contacts nationwide.

II. Executive Summary

American business leaders overwhelmingly favor publicly-supported pre-kindergarten programs, with more than four-in-five agreeing with all of the following statements:

- Investments in effective preschool programs for children are important if the U.S. is to remain competitive in the global economy
- Investments in effective preschool programs for children are important for the long-term success of the U.S. economy
- Voluntary pre-kindergarten for all children would improve the workforce
- Public funding of voluntary pre-K for all children would improve America's workforce

Please contact Preschool California at (510) 271-0075 for the full version of the Zogby International Poll.

Significantly, 83% favor an approach that would provide publicly-funded pre-kindergarten with choice—that is, where parents were empowered to choose the pre-K program that is right for them and their child.

In fact, not only do these business leaders favor this approach, but more than three-in-five business leaders (63%) favor active support for such universal programs from the business sector.

Business leaders clearly tie their support to studies that showed significant economic advantages to providing pre-school to all children. More than four-in-five say they are more likely to support universal pre-school because of studies that showed disadvantaged children provided with pre-K educations earned higher incomes and were better able to support themselves and their families as adults, as well as a gender-specific study that found that female pre-K participants were more likely to graduate from high school and avoid costly lifestyle choices like out-of-wedlock birth and receiving public assistance.

Business leaders universally embrace the notion that pre-kindergarten participants are more likely to start school better prepared and to perform better throughout their educational experience. Beyond that, three-quarters of business leaders agree that universal access to pre-kindergarten would improve the workforce—and that public funding of such would also improve the workforce.

Ultimately, unease about the American workforce, and the U.S.’s ability to compete in the global economy without a solid investment in education beginning in early childhood seems a potent rationale for business leaders to support investing in universal pre-school for all who want it.

Views on Pre-School Education (ranked by % agree)

	Agree	Disagree	Not Sure
Children who receive pre-kindergarten education are more likely to start school better prepared.	94	4	2
Children who begin school better prepared are more likely to perform better throughout their educational experience.	92	8	1

Further Views on Pre-School Education (ranked by % agree)

	Agree	Disagree	Not Sure
Investments in effective preschool programs for children are important if the U.S. is to remain competitive in the global economy.	88	10	2
Investments in effective preschool programs for children are important for the long-term success of the U.S. economy.	87	10	3
Voluntary pre-kindergarten for all children would improve the workforce.	86	11	3
Public funding of voluntary pre-K for all children would improve America’s workforce.	81	16	3