



FOUNDATION for
CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Declining Investments in Education Put America's Children at Risk

The 2009 Foundation for Child Development Child and Youth Well-Being Index (CWI) Report by Kenneth C. Land of Duke University includes a Special Focus Report: *Anticipating Impacts of a 2008-2010 Recession*.

Declines in PreK participation will be the result of state and school district budget cuts, as well as losses in family income. Land's previous reports identify PreK participation as a leading indicator of increased educational attainment four years later.

Therefore, it is not alarmist to project that declines in PreK participation will reverberate throughout the educational system. The result will be that the children who are not involved in high-quality PreK programs today will become below-basic performers on Fourth, Eighth, and Twelfth Grade tests in the future.

Fortunately, more information about what is likely to happen allows us to change course, if we want to. The Foundation for Child Development calls on policymakers at all levels to resist further sacrificing the future of generations of children to save a few dollars today. Now, in the maelstrom of this current recession, is the time to protect children's educational futures.

Research shows that investing in PreK/early learning programs, and sustaining their gains with high-quality elementary education (PreK-3rd), can make a difference not only in children's educational outcomes, but also in their life prospects. **Cutting resources at the front end of the P-16/20 educational system will hurt not only this generation of children, but their children as well.**

To download the 2009 FCD Child Well-Being Index (CWI) Report and Special Focus Report, visit http://www.fcd-us.org/resources/resources_show.htm?doc_id=906348

For more information on the Research Basis for PreK-3rd, visit http://www.fcd-us.org/issues_more/issues_more_show.htm?doc_id=843653.