



**Ready
for School**

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KEEPING THE PROMISES to Oregon's most vulnerable young children

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Talking Points

- The 2015 Oregon Legislature made two important promises to the young children of Oregon:
 - It approved an important investment in the Preschool Promise program, to provide access to high-quality preschool to 1,400 children from low-income Oregon families.
 - And it promised to provide Head Start services to more than 800 additional Oregon children who qualify for Head Start yet remain on waiting lists. A budget error meant some of those promised funds did not go toward needed expansion, and only about 200 additional children are being served.
- Lawmakers must act in the next two weeks to reaffirm their commitments to both investments -
 - to ensure that they keep their promises to Oregon's most vulnerable young children.
- More than 70 percent of kids from Oregon families at 200 percent of federal poverty or below don't have access to high-quality preschool – preschool that can ensure those children are prepared for kindergarten and on track for success in third grade. That's more than 32,000 children without access to preschool.
- The wise decision the Oregon Legislature made in 2015 to invest in preschool is a first step toward an important state of Oregon goal: building a true P-20 education system – quality preschool through graduate degree. A P-20 education system is vital to the state's economic well-being, and vital to ensuring all Oregonians reach their full potential in school and life.
- Also, Oregon has made a commitment to screening more children for developmental delays. Unfortunately, as the increased screenings show many children who need services to help them thrive, we are underfunding those services. The Legislature needs to appropriately fund those services.