LOUISIANA POLICY INSTITUTE for CHILDREN

A Stronger Louisiana Starts with Successful Children

Early Care and Education in Louisiana:

St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce

Advocacy and Public Policy Committee

Wednesday, April 9th | 3:25 pm

Louisiana Policy Institute for Children

The Louisiana Policy Institute for Children

- **Mission:** Advancing policies to ensure that Louisiana's young children are ready for success in school and in life.
- **Vision:** We envision a Louisiana in which all young children, birth through age four, are safe, healthy, and reach their full potential.
- **Our Work:** The Policy Institute seeks to be a source of nonpartisan, independent information on issues concerning children ages birth through four in Louisiana.

LOUISIANA POLICY INSTITUTE for CHILDREN

A Stronger Louisiana Starts with Successful Children

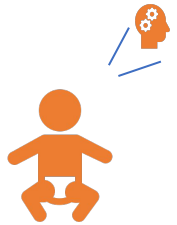
Presentation Overview

Importance of Early Childhood Education

History of Early Childhood Education

Child Care & the Economy

Resources & Action Steps



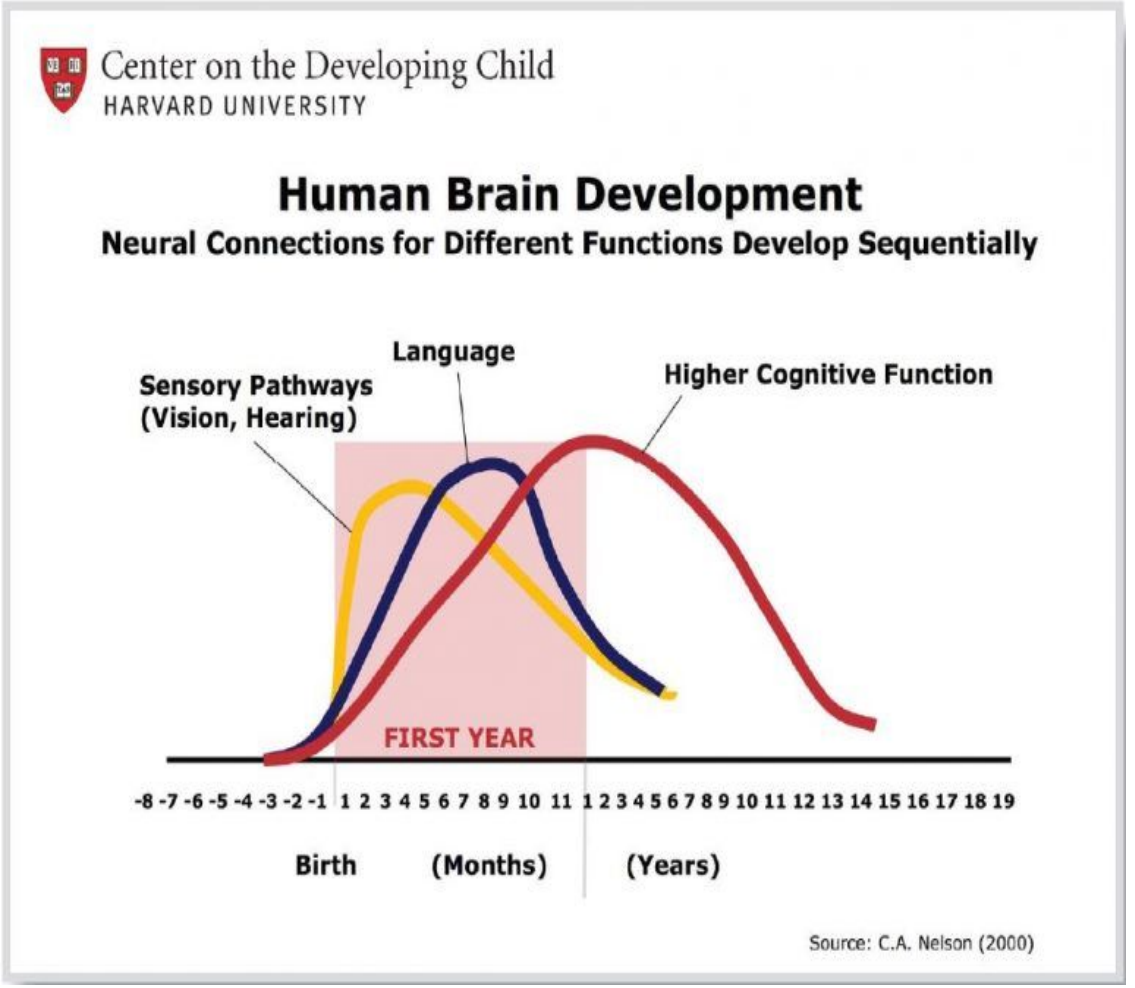
What is Early Childhood Education?

Programs and services for children ages birth through 4 years old.

What is Early Childhood Education?

- This time in a child's life is particularly important as **their brain is developing at peak speed**, making more than 1 million new neurological connections every second.

- A child's environment and experiences during these early years continue to shape the child's brain and **set the foundations for their future success in school, the workplace, and as members of their community.**



What is Early Childhood Education?

Children across Louisiana can receive formal child care through several different provider types:

Type I

Operated by religious organization, and only accepts private pay.

Not in quality rating system, but is licensed by the state to operate.

Type II

Only accepts private pay.

May be in CACFP (food program).

Not in quality rating system, but is licensed by the state to operate.

Type III

Accepts private pay and public funding.

In the quality rating system and is licensed by the state to operate.

Family Child Care

Program in provider's home for up to 6 children.

If registered, receives licensing inspection.

If certified with academic approval, receives licensing inspection, public funding, and participates in quality rating system.

What is Early Childhood Education?

- Children in high-quality early care and education programs experience a **developmentally appropriate** academic curriculum that aligns with the Louisiana Department of Education's early learning and development standards.

- Children in Type III programs are **taught by credentialed and evaluated educators** in a resource rich, nurturing environment.

Child Care Is an Economic Development Issue

When Children Experience Quality Child Care…

They are more likely to graduate high school

They are more likely to have a full-time job as an adult

Their income as an adult is higher

They have better health outcomes

They are less likely to participate in criminal activity

They have better quality of life

They have lower rates of drug use

The benefit of this investment applies to two generations, the children and their parents, creating both short- and long-term economic benefits:

Their parents will have higher educational attainment

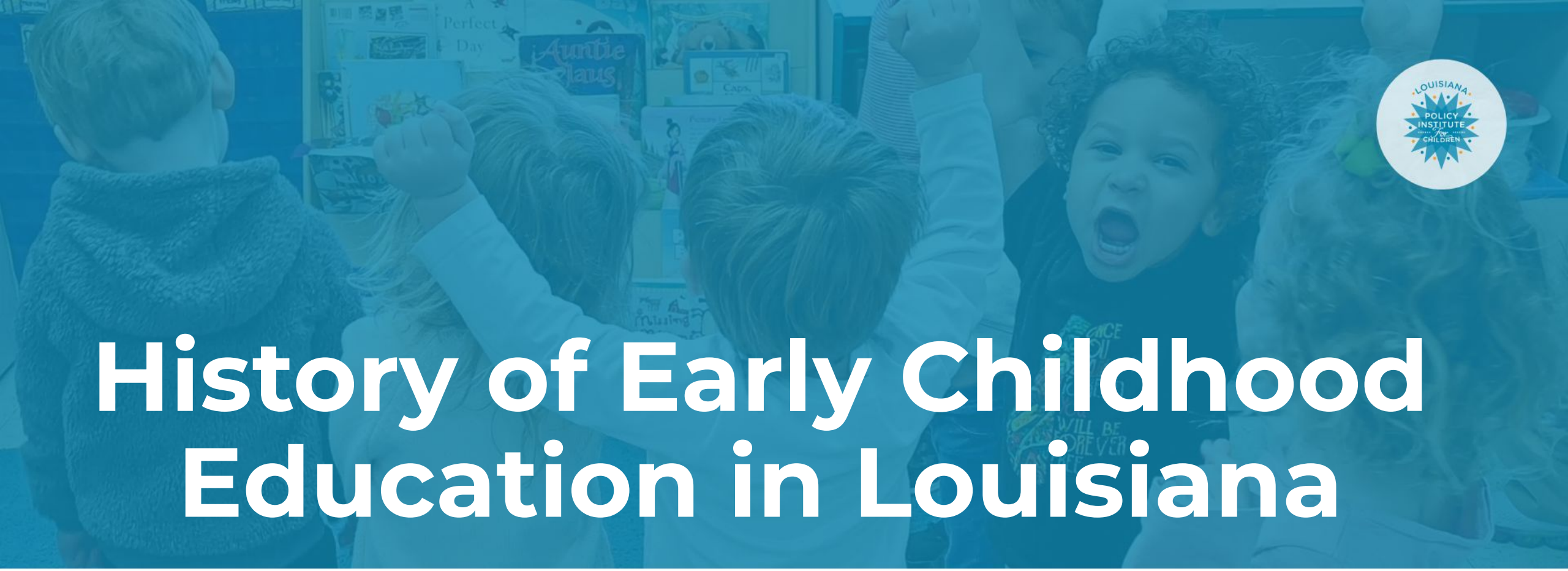
Their parents will have higher income

Their parents will have more economic mobility

Child Care Is a Long-Term Workforce Issue

CABL's longitudinal LA 4 study, comparing students who were in LA 4 and those who did not attend pre-K.

	Outcome	Impact of LA 4	
Long-Term Education Impact	Ontime Graduation	↑	4.3% higher
	Qualify for TOPS Tech	↑	9.3% higher
	Qualify for TOPS Opportunity	↑	10.7% higher
Academic Achievement	Algebra	↑	12.1% higher
	English 2	↑	7.8% higher
	English 3	–	No measurable impact
	Geometry	↑	8/4% higher
	Biology	↑	9.3% higher
Students with Special Needs	Special Education Placements	↓	45% lower



History of Early Childhood Education in Louisiana

From unifying the system to innovative funding streams, Louisiana has continued to lead the way.

History of ECE in Louisiana

2001

Louisiana passes legislation to create the LA4 pre-kindergarten program under the Louisiana Department of Education (LDE).

2007

Louisiana passes legislation that creates the Quality Start Rating System and School Readiness Tax Credits (SRTCs). Quality Start creates quality standards for child care centers (0-4), and SRTCs incentivize quality improvements through tax credits.

2012

The Louisiana legislature passes the Louisiana Early Childhood Act, which places authority and funding for child care (0-4) under the LDE. The bill spurs activity related to ECE, including new development standards and a revamped accountability system.

History of ECE in Louisiana

2016

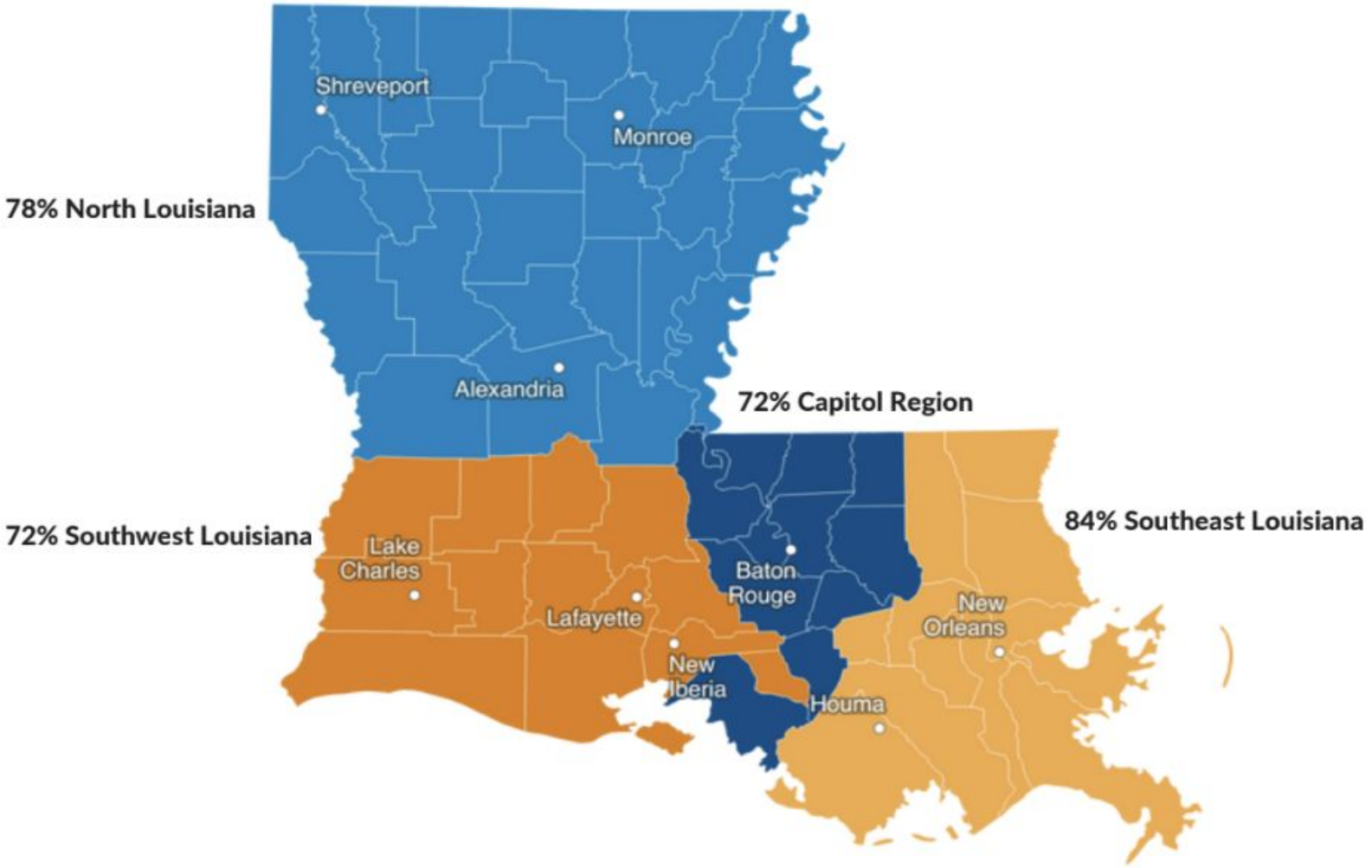
Louisiana Department of Education implements its Quality Rating and Improvement System, which will go on to become recognized in national research.

2017-2021

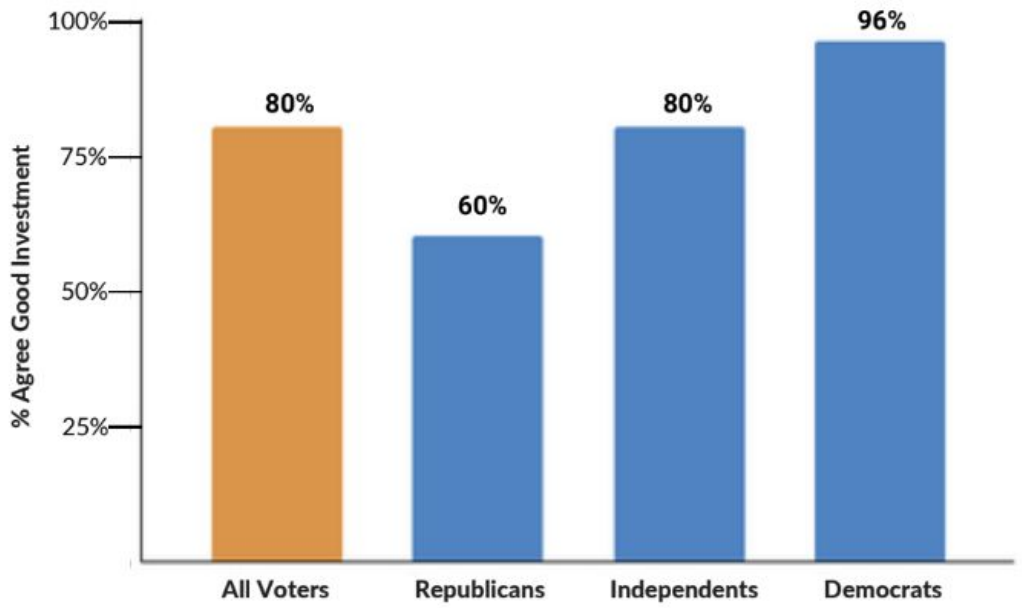
The Louisiana Legislature creates the Early Childhood Education Fund, which matches locally raised funding for ECE. The Legislature goes on to pass several dedicated funding streams that help contribute to their 1:1 match from 2019-2021.

Investing in Child Care Is Popular

Nearly 80% of likely voters across Louisiana think taking action to ensure that more working families have access to affordable, quality child care should be an important priority for our state this year.



Voters Support Early Care & Education

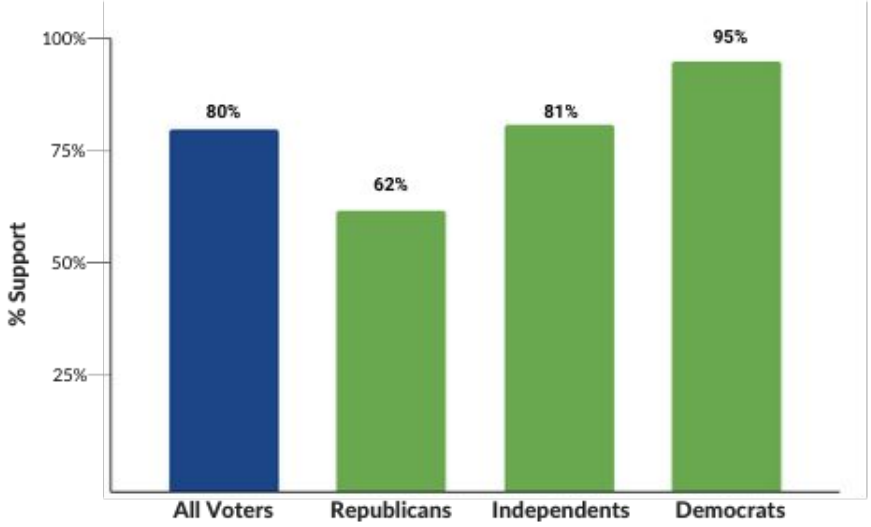


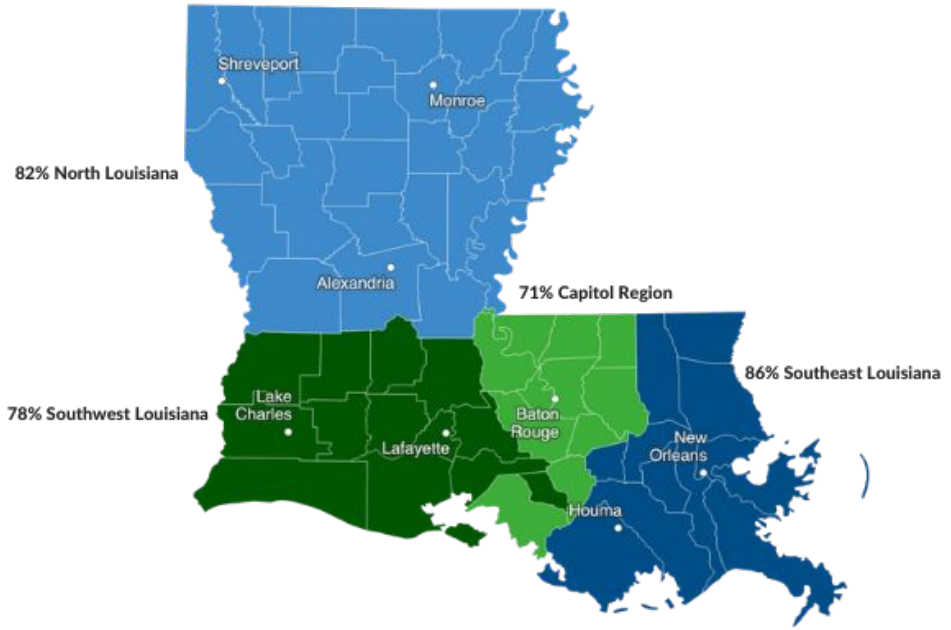
Most voters agree that providing greater support for working families with young children, birth to age 5, is a very good investment of taxpayer money. This support holds across all regions of the state, and has strong support among all parties.

Voter Support for ECE

Voters Support Long-Term State Investment in Early Care and Education

Most voters across all parties and regions of the state support dedicating an additional $115 million per year for the next 10 years to expand early care and education programs for working families.

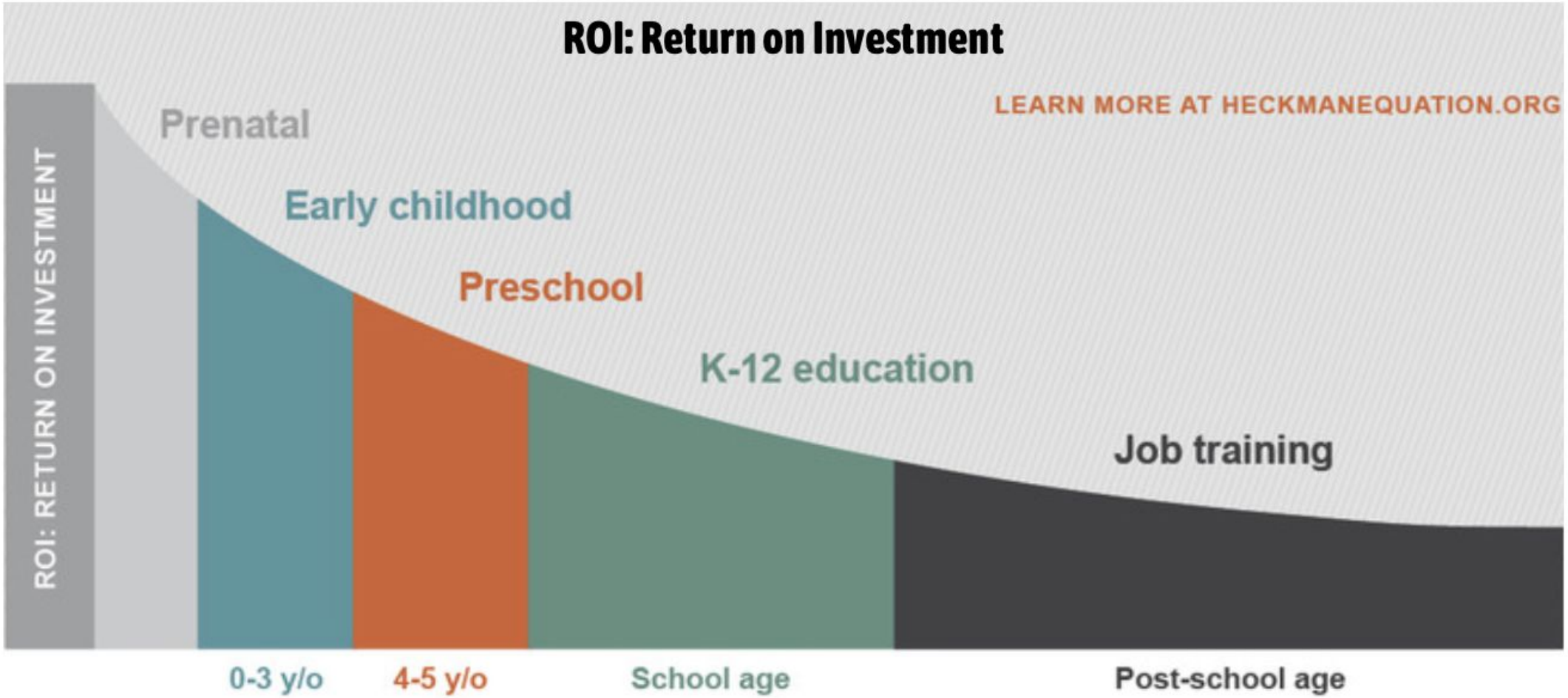




Early Childhood Education & the Economy

Early childhood education is the industry that fuels all other industries, prepares our children for success at school and in life, and allows our communities to flourish.

Child Care & the Economy: Why Invest Public Dollars in ECE?



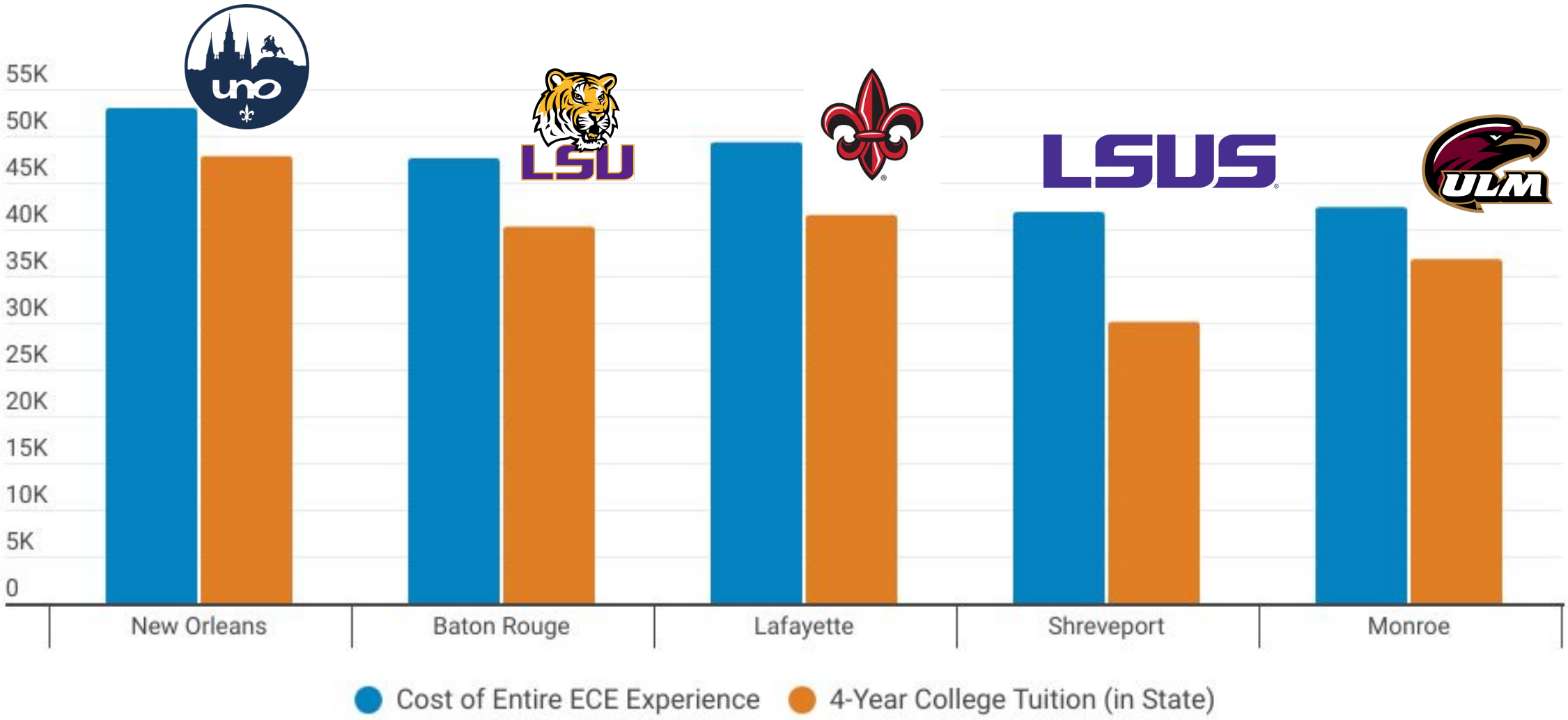
Child Care & the Economy: Why Invest Public Dollars in ECE?

Currently in Louisiana:

- **67% of children birth through age 4** have both parents or their single parent in the workforce
- **61% of infants' mothers return to work** during their first year.
- **Child Care** in Louisiana often costs more than **4-year college tuition.**

33% *of St. Tammany Parish households are* ***ALICE*** *(Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) and* ***child care represents their greatest expense***

High-Quality Early Childhood Education Costs More Than College in Louisiana



Lack of access to quality, reliable child care for working parents:

Costs Louisiana employers over **$760 million** a year.

Results in a **$1.3 billion** loss for Louisiana's economy

Calculate how much child care breakdowns are costing your business.

Call to Action

- **Contact your elected officials at the local, state, and federal level** about why early care and education is important to you.
- **Stay engaged during the Louisiana state legislative session** which informs statewide policy on early and education and other issues concerning young children.
- **Join advocacy coalitions,** like the Ready Louisiana Coalition which provide opportunities to share your voice about this critical issue.
- **Attend state meetings on early care and education** such as the Board of Secondary and Elementary Education and the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission.
- **Inform candidates running for office** about early care and education as a high priority and what they can do if they are elected.

- **Donate to your local Ready Start Network;** funds can be matched dollar-for-dollar, up to the amount raised locally by the network, via the ECE Fund.

Contact Us

For more information please visit:

www.policyinstitutela.org

Contact information:

Candace Alfred Weber, PhD

Chief of Partnerships

Louisiana Policy Institute for Children

cweber@policyinstitutela.org

Join our Ready Louisiana Coalition