

How to support early education?

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Dawn Baumgartner Vaughan's column regarding cuts to North Carolina's public education system ("Education budget cuts absurd," June 25) was right on point. "A good education is the foundation for a good life. Without it, we waver and we fall."

As a result of recent budget cuts, North Carolina's education spending will be one of the lowest in the nation. Nothing could paint a grimmer picture for the future of our state.

North Carolina's groundbreaking early childhood system provides evidence-based, high-quality services to families with young children. This comprehensive system of care is recognized on a national level and invests resources early in a child's life, when dollars have the highest return on investment. These services aren't frivolous. They offer essential learning and care at an age-appropriate level, they address physical and emotional health and development including early intervention for children who aren't progressing typically, and they build a solid foundation for families. When children get what they need early on, we can expect fewer special education placements, higher reading and math test scores, and more qualified graduates entering the workforce.

How can we expect more of our children, our students, and our future workforce if we deny them the resources they need to learn and grow?

LAURA J.S. BENSON

Executive director, Durham's Partnership for Children