



Early Grade Success Highlights

Our Priority: That Arizona and Florida children enter kindergarten prepared to succeed and read at grade level by the end of third grade.

Research shows that the ages between birth and eight are critical in laying the foundation for success in school and beyond. The social and emotional development that occurs in the brain during these years helps establish the foundation for future academic success as well as healthy patterns for lifelong learning.

Providing students with access to high-quality, early-learning environments — regardless of their race, income or geography — delivers many proven individual and societal benefits. Children exposed to high-quality, early-learning opportunities are more

likely to read at grade level by the end of third grade, graduate from high school on time, earn higher household incomes and become productive adults. High-quality, early-learning opportunities also break the cycle of inequality and prepare children to make the most of their educational opportunities when they enter school.

The Foundation's work in Early Grade Success reflects a focus on building and strengthening sustainable early childhood systems that contribute to quality early-learning environments for children; improving access to and the quality of early-childhood professional development for teachers, administrators and practitioners working with children; and bridging early-childhood and K-3 education systems to increase the successful transition of young children.

