



Pre-K needs boost

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New York should not allow itself to remain in the "middle" on funding for pre-K because funding for early learning is one of the best ways we can jump-start our economy. While many recognize early learning programs have long-term economic benefits, I recently learned that early learning investments will significantly increase sales of local goods and services across the state. A new America's Edge report found these investments generate as much or more in new sales as investments in construction, manufacturing, transportation or utilities.

Fully funding early learning in New York would generate \$1.86 in additional sales for every dollar invested — \$6.7 billion in total into the state, including \$3.4 billion in sales from New York City businesses; create 80,000 new jobs; and reduce the millions of dollars businesses lose from absenteeism caused by employees' child care problems. Remember there is no such thing as a free ride, we either decide to spend money up front for early education, or risk spending much more on the back end in remedial or delinquency programs.

Given the positive, short-term impact early learning has, I urge policymakers to put New York at the forefront, not in the middle, to make these investments for our state's businesses, economy and children.