

Investing in Kids – Investing in South Carolina’s Future

All Kids Deserve A Strong Start.

By age 5, a child’s brain is already 90% developed, yet two out of five American children are not enrolled in preschool. Children living in poverty who don’t participate in high-quality early education programs are 25% more likely to drop out of school and 70% more likely to be arrested for a violent crime.

The Problem.

According to a report issued in May 2015 by the National Institute for Early Education Research, only 60% of 4-year-olds and just 4% of 3-year-olds attended preschool nationwide last year. In South Carolina, 59 % of children did not attend preschool between 2011 and 2013, according to the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Without access to high-quality early learning programs, children fall behind. Many never catch up.

The Solution.

Save the Children Action Network (SCAN) is calling on elected leaders to prioritize a child’s early years and give all kids a bright future. We want to enact smart policies that ensure more children have access to high-quality early education programs.

Save the Children’s core programs in South Carolina include:

- **The Early Steps to School Success Program:** Designed to assist children, from prenatal to age 5, with language, social and emotional development; to equip parents with the skills and knowledge to successfully support their child’s growth; and to develop strong home-school connections.
- **The Literacy Program:** Provides children in kindergarten through sixth grade with the opportunity to increase their reading achievement by supplying the tools they need to develop reading skills and the guidance and support they need to grow as readers.

How We’re Investing in South Carolina’s Children

- Mobilizing voters to take bold action to hold our policy makers and presidential hopefuls accountable to children.
 - Advocating for initiatives and legislation at the state and national level that promote children’s well-being.
- Partnering with 15 communities in 6 counties, serving 6,616 children.

We are also advocating for local expansion of “Pay for Success” funding for early childhood education for at-risk children.

About Us.

Established to expand Save the Children’s capacity to transform young lives, Save the Children Action Network holds elected leaders accountable for investments in children from birth to age five. By focusing on key legislative policies and engaging a statewide advocacy network of activists, Save the Children Action Network is raising the visibility of early childhood education as a top priority in South Carolina and across the nation. Learn more at SavetheChildrenActionNetwork.org.

