



## How much would York County taxpayers save PER YEAR by paying the cost to educate, and even re-engage, truant youth compared to the cost to simply incarcerate them, if dropping out leads to imprisonment?

- ❑ *The average weekly cost for early childhood education in York County is \$137.50. The annual cost is **\$7,150.00**.*
- ❑ *Check and Connect, a program designed to re-engage students in their education, costs **\$1,300 per student** per school year.*
- ❑ *In 2010-2011, there were **3,120 truant students** in York County.*
- ❑ ***75%** of historically truant students do not complete high school.*
- ❑ *The dropout rate for York County in the 2010-2011 school year was 1.45%, or **467 students**.*
- ❑ *Students who drop out of high school are **eight times** more likely to be in prison.*
- ❑ ***35%** of current York County inmates did not graduate from high school.*
- ❑ *The annual cost to hold truancy hearings in all of the 19 Magistrates' Offices in 2010-2011 was **\$130,460.16**.*

The annual cost to educate and re-engage a York County student in 2010-2011 was **\$14,459.78**.

The cost to incarcerate a York County inmate in 2010-2011 was **\$30,295.00**.

**This is an annual savings of \$15,835.22 for every student we keep in school and out of prison.**

# The Need for Investment

A study by the Annie. E Casey Foundation found that students who don't read proficiently by third grade are *four times* more likely to drop out than proficient readers.

## Early Childhood Education Investment

- ❑ **75%** of a person's brain development occurs from birth to age six.
- ❑ By **18 months**, the achievement gap between children of college-educated parents and parents with less than high school education appears.
- ❑ In York County, there are **26,592 children** aged five and under. Throughout the county, there are approximately 9,729 spots in early learning programs.
- ❑ *Head Start and Pre-K Counts*, free child-care programs for families below the poverty line, had a combined waiting list of **962 children** in 2011.
- ❑ In York County, **57.8%** of children under 5 live in economically at-risk families.
- ❑ Only **12%** of children birth to 5 in York County will have access to quality early learning programs.
- ❑ The average salary of an early childhood teacher with a bachelor's degree is \$21,680. The average starting salary for a public school teacher with a bachelor's degree is \$42,640.

**The median household income in York County is \$67,623. A household with two young children could spend close to \$16,000 annually on childcare. At the median income, 25% of the household's income would be spent on childcare alone.**

**The median income for a single female head of household in York County is \$22,986.**