

The economic benefits of investing in Oregon schools

As we review the potential economic impacts of higher corporate taxes, it's equally important to consider how investing those dollars in education would greatly benefit our state. According to a 2013 study conducted by the [Economic Policy Institute](#), "providing expanded access to high quality education will not only expand economic opportunity for residents, but also likely do more to strengthen the overall state economy than anything else a state government can do."

Based on a huge volume of research, we know that investing in Oregon students would yield a significant return: Increasing workforce participation, reducing healthcare costs and prison populations, and building a more efficient economy. These outcomes are an important part of the conversation before us today, with the potential to improve the lives of Oregon children and families in every corner of the state.

With that in mind, here are some key facts:

- **For every dollar spent on education, a state budget could get over \$8 in return.** Improved education leads to more stable employment and greatly increase tax revenue. These investments yield a return that far exceeds the return on most public projects that are considered "economic development." — [National Conference of State Legislatures](#)
- **Better educated people in Oregon are more likely to be employed and more likely to contribute to the economy.** Conversely, those with a less than a high school diploma consistently experience higher rates of unemployment. — [State of Oregon Employment Department](#)
- **An educated workforce is one of the most important things corporate executives look for when deciding where to locate new operations.** Educated workers are more productive. A better educated workforce attracts investment and encourages economic growth. — [Annual Survey of Corporate Executives](#), [Site Selection Magazine](#)
- **People with more education tend to rely less on public assistance programs.** High school dropouts are more than twice as likely to be unemployed and three times more likely to receive welfare assistance. People who graduate from high school also have fewer health problems, making them less dependent on publicly funded health programs — [The Social and Economic Benefits of Public Education](#); [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- **Improving education saves on future health care costs.** People who don't graduate from high school are more likely to have chronic health conditions such as diabetes, cancer, asthma, and high blood pressure compared to people that have a high school education or higher. These health conditions are costly to treat. (Oregon Health Authority, Oregon Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Chronic conditions by education level, 2011.)
- **Educated people are less likely to commit crimes or be incarcerated.** Those with a high school diploma or higher are significantly less likely to be incarcerated than their counterparts. — [Bureau of Justice Statistics](#), [Alliance for Excellent Education](#)

Based on this research and the toll that decades of underfunding has taken on generations of Oregon students, it's clear to me that we have both a moral and economic responsibility to make new investments in our students this session.