

# ALICE - Education



## Poverty and Education: How does income affect early learning & future success?

### Facts

Quality, affordable child care is one of the most important – and most expensive – budget items for ALICE families. Poor quality child care can slow intellectual and social development, and low standards for hygiene and safety can lead to injury and illness for kids. Inadequate child care also affects parents and employers, resulting in absenteeism, tardiness, and low productivity.

Preschool attendance is highly related to income. Children in households with higher incomes are more likely to attend preschool. In Washington, only 29% of kids in households with incomes below the ALICE Threshold were enrolled in preschool, compared to 50% for those in families with incomes above the ALICE Threshold.

Education is one of the few ways ALICE families can get ahead in the long run. In the short-term, finding quality child care, good schools, and affordable higher education is a challenge. As a result, ALICE families often forgo education opportunities, which has consequences both for their earning potential and for workforce development in our community.

The lack of a basic education has repercussions society-wide, including lower tax revenues, higher crime rates, and greater public spending on public assistance and health care.

### Solutions

Quality early learning has social and economic benefits for children, parents, employers, and society as a whole. These programs give kids the skills necessary for success in kindergarten and beyond. They also allow parents to work, which increases the family's earning potential.

People with higher levels of education are often more engaged in their communities and better able to improve conditions for their families. While more than 50% of those without a high school diploma report not understanding political issues, 89% of those with a Bachelor's degree have at least some understanding of political issues.

If all Pacific Northwest students graduated from high school, the increased income would be \$33 million in Idaho, \$74 million in Oregon, and \$283 million in Washington, plus another \$61 million in increased federal tax revenues.

Your gift to United Way helps kids and families with:

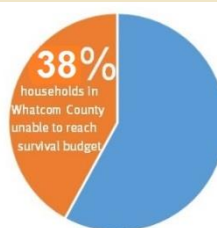
- Affordable childcare
- After school programs
- Support for at-risk teens and much, much more!



**ASSET LIMITED**  
ALICE has no safety net in times of crisis.

**INCOME CONSTRAINED**  
ALICE's income falls short of Essentials.

**EMPLOYED**  
ALICE is working, yet is financially Vulnerable.



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