

To view this newsletter online, go to <https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/tccy/educate-inform/tccy-pubs/advocate.html>.



# Advocate

February 2018

[Calendar](#)

[In the News](#)

[KIDS COUNT Facts](#)

[Research](#)

[TCCY Home](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[TCCY Newsroom](#)

[TCCY Regional Councils](#)

## Early Learning Increases Opportunities Table of Contents

[Children's Advocacy Days;](#)  
[Early Education and Innovation;](#)  
[Research Finds Early Programs Effective;](#)  
[Perry Pre-School Still Paying Off;](#)  
[Equity Starts Early;](#)  
[TN Together: Opioid Crisis Response;](#)  
[Legislative Information;](#)  
[Update.](#)



Sign up to receive *The Advocate* at <https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/tccy/advocate-collaborate/tccy-ac-advlegis/tccy-ac-advocacy/leg-listserv.html>

### Children's Advocacy Days



Registration for the 30th Annual Children's Advocacy Days is now available. The theme this year is "Children's Advocacy in Concert," with a focus drawing on the skills of all to work together for children. In keeping with its tradition, this year's event will include a forum allowing gubernatorial candidates to share their visions about what the state can do to improve child well-being. Experts on issues, including

childhood trauma, juvenile justice reform and the opioid crisis, will educate attendees, who will also have an opportunity to visit policymakers. Tennessee First Lady Crissy Haslam and young people from Southern Word plan on returning. It will be an intriguing and enlightening experience - and fun.

The 2018 Governor's Awards for Excellence in Early Foundations and TCCY annual awards will be presented. Contact [John Rust](#) for more information.

Registration: <https://cad2018.eventbrite.com>. A link to the registration page is also on TCCY's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/tccyonfb/>.

[Return to Table of Contents.](#)

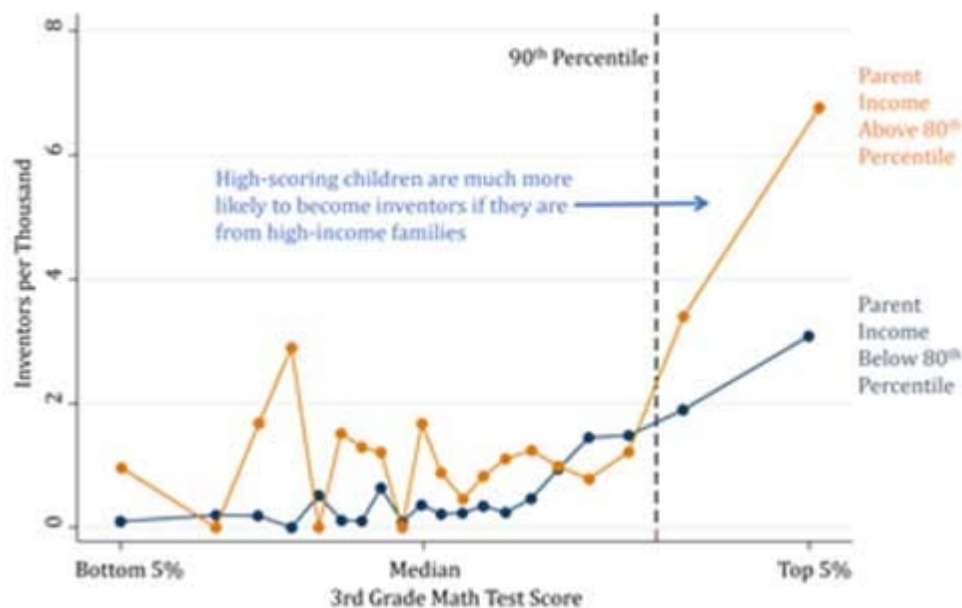
## Early Childhood Education May Be the Path to More Innovation

The Equality of Opportunity Project found a correlation between high test scores and innovative careers. Unfortunately, the report found disparities based on income, race and gender. Children with low income parents failed to produce the same number of innovators, even if their test scores were as high as students with higher income parents. The study concludes, "If these groups invented at the same rate as white men from high-income families, we would have four times as many inventors in America today."

Ultimately, the project revealed that investing in underutilized talent from minorities and low income families benefits not only those children but society as a whole. You can read about it [here](#), but here are a few policy recommendations.

1. Invest in programs targeting children from underrepresented groups who excel in math and science.
2. Tailor such programs to fit participants' backgrounds.
3. Improve opportunities for disadvantaged children to excel.

### Patent Rates vs. 3rd Grade Math Test Scores



Bell, A., et al., The Equality of Opportunity Project, *Who Becomes an Inventor in America? The Importance of Exposure to Innovation*, <http://bit.ly/2BDtCcY>.

Jamrisko, M., and Wei, L., *Bloomberg Technology*, **The U.S. Drops Out of the Top 10 in Innovation Ranking**, <http://bit.ly/2BEtccy>.

Barnum, M., *Chalkbeat*, **A surprising link: when kids work harder on tests, their countries' economies grow more**, <http://bit.ly/2BBtCcY>.

**NOTE: Kaila Gilbert contributed this article.**

[Return to Table of Contents.](#)

### Investing Early Pays Off, Study Says

An examination of 115 early childhood programs, including home visiting and early childhood education services, found statistical improvement on at least one factor for children in 102 programs, showing these programs can change lives. The research found evaluations tend to measure many factors and, not surprisingly, do not show improvement on all of them. Researcher M. Rebecca Kilburn said, "All the different ways we examined this issue pointed to the same conclusion.... we're getting to the point where policymakers have a lot of evidence that well-implemented early childhood programs are a good investment."

Irving, D., Rand Corp, **High-Quality Early Childhood Programs Can Change Lives**, <http://bit.ly/2BBC5xT>.

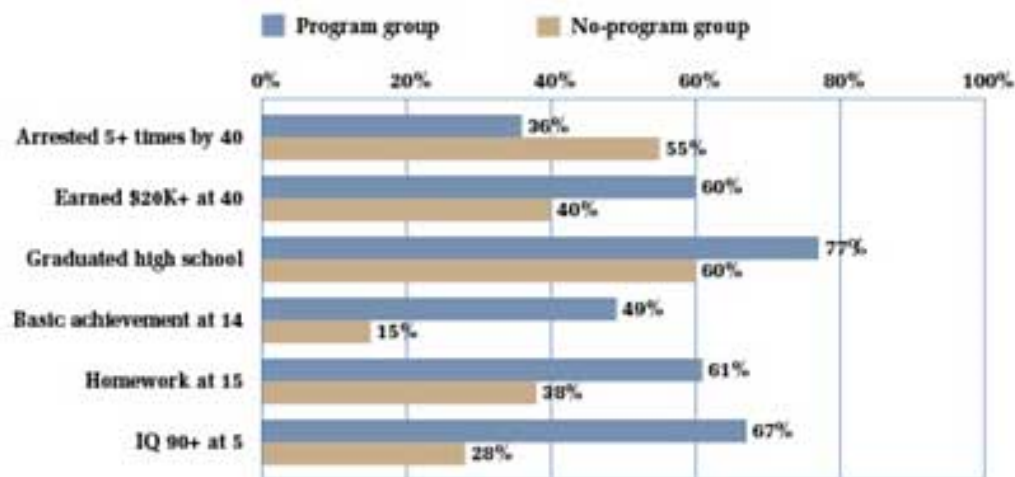
[Return to Table of Contents.](#)

### Perry Preschool Study: What Is Quality Early Education?

The Perry Preschool Study conducted from 1962–1967 provides some of the strongest evidence of the power of quality preschool.

The study followed 123 three- and four-year-olds from impoverished backgrounds. During two years, half of the students received 2.5 hour sessions taught by certified public school teachers. The daily curriculum emphasized active learning, such as decision-making and problem-solving. In addition, teachers visited the children's families once a week to involve the parents in the educational process. The control group did not receive these sessions.

**Figure 1**  
Major Findings: High/Scope Perry Preschool Study at 40



The study has continued to follow up on these students, finding differences between the research and control groups continue and were even more pronounced 40 years later. Forty years on, the study group had:

1. Higher median income;
2. Lower rates of government assistance;
3. Lower arrest rates; and
4. Were less likely to have served time in jail.

HighScope, **Perry Preschool Study**, <http://bit.ly/2BBTcCy>.

**NOTE: Kaila Gilbert contributed this article.**

[Return to Table of Contents.](#)

### Equity Starts Early Report

Early childhood education policies can combat the systemic and structural racism that creates disparities in access to quality child care that is culturally competent, especially as our young child population becomes more diverse. The report recommends:

- Significant investments to expand access to high quality early education programs;
- Collaborative efforts among stakeholders to address disparities;
- Addressing the needs of those with limited English proficiency;
- Knowledge of limits on federal immigration enforcement in "sensitive locations."

Johnson-Staub, C., CLASP, ***Equity Starts Early: Addressing Racial Inequities in Child Care and Early Education Policy***, <http://bit.ly/2BCTccy>, <http://bit.ly/2BCtccy>.

[Return to Table of Contents.](#)

### TN Together: Ending the Opioid Crisis

State House and Senate leaders and Chief Justice Jeff Bivins joined Gov. Haslam to announce a plan to end the opioid epidemic in Tennessee. The effort is focused on three major components: prevention, treatment and law enforcement. The Governor also focused on TN Together in his State of the State speech on Jan. 29. TN Together will use legislation, proposed funding in the governor's 2018-19 budget and executive actions to address the problem.

- **TN Together:** <http://www.tn.gov/opioids>;
- <https://www.facebook.com/TnTogether>;
- <https://twitter.com/TnTogether>;
- <https://www.instagram.com/tennesseetogether/>;
- **TN Together: Ending the Opioid Crisis:** <https://www.tn.gov/governor/2018-legislative-priorities/tn-together.html>.
- TN Together also has a YouTube page: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4lwrk7j0-g8ZLxmDnnn7qQ>.

[Return to Table of Contents.](#)

## Keeping Up with Legislative Changes

Gov. Haslam released his proposed budget for next year. While it didn't increase funding for home visiting or adverse childhood experiences grants, it did move these programs to recurring funding. This means that funding for these programs will not have to be proactively added to future budgets each year.

**NOTE: Most state website links were changed to improve maintenance of the site. New links are listed below:**

**2018 State of the State Address,** <http://bit.ly/2npTcCy>.

**Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2018,** <http://bit.ly/2nkTcCy>.

**2018 Budget Recommendations:** <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tccy/documents/leg/leg-budget.pdf>.

**Legislative Report:** <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tccy/documents/leg/legislat.pdf>.

**2017 Legislative Guidance:** <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tccy/documents/leg/leg-guidance1.pdf>.

**2018 Legislative Guidance** will be available after the Commission approves it at its Feb. 16 meeting (at <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tccy/documents/leg/leg-guidance2.pdf>).

Sign up to receive TCCY updates, Sign up to receive The Advocate at <https://www.tn.gov/tccy/advocate-collaborate/tccy-ac-advlegis/tccy-ac-advocacy/leg-listserv.html>.

[Return to Table of Contents.](#)

## Update



**Mitchell**

Latasha Mitchell has joined TCCY as the juvenile justice program coordinator for contract monitoring. She will be drawing on her experience in social work, administration and education. Latasha has a master's in psychology from Howard University. Originally from Southern California, she is an avid lover of traveling, sports, cuisine, DIY projects, music and, of course, her spouse.

[Return to Table of Contents.](#)

## Mark Your Calendar

Feb. 2, **NWCCY Ethics Training, "Promise and Peril: Tech Ethics,"** 8 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., Feb. 2, UT Martin. Speakers include Elizabeth Wilson, Ph.D. & LCSW and Todd Stanfield, Ph.D. and MSW, both of Union University Department of Social Work. Contact: [Dana.Cobb@tn.gov](mailto:Dana.Cobb@tn.gov).

Feb. 6, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. CST, **TN Housing Development Agency Grant Training Webinar,**

<http://bit.ly/TCCYrAs>. The webinar provides information about the agency's TN Housing Trust Fund Spring Competitive Grant program.

Feb. 7, **MSCCYC** hosts **Lunch and Learn: B5210: Encouraging Childhood Health and Well-Being**, Feb. 7, 12 noon-1:30 p.m., Benjamin Hooks Library, Memphis. Register at <http://bit.ly/2n7Stccy>.

Feb. 13, 9 a.m., **TN Afterschool Network 2018 Day on the Hill**, Conference Room 8D, Cordell Hull Building, 425 Fifth Ave., N., Nashville. RSVP to [mary.graham@uwn.org](mailto:mary.graham@uwn.org).

Feb. 14, **TN Disability Day on the Hill 2018**, Cordell Hull Building, Nashville. Contact Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities Public Policy Director Lauren Percy at [lauren.j.pearcy@tn.gov](mailto:lauren.j.pearcy@tn.gov).

Feb. 15-16, **TN Commission on Children and Youth** meeting. Contact [Natasha.M.Smith@tn.gov](mailto:Natasha.M.Smith@tn.gov) for information.

Feb. 25-27, **National Anti-Hunger Policy Conference**, Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D.C. Register at <http://bit.ly/2p8uUvN>.

Feb. 26, 11:30 a.m. **South Central Council on Children and Youth Regional Meeting**, Basement Conference Room, Maury County Health Department, 1909 Hampshire Pike, Columbia. Contact [Shaun.Noblit@tn.gov](mailto:Shaun.Noblit@tn.gov) to RSVP and reserve lunch.

Feb. 28, 1 p.m. **Strong Voices for Tennessee's Young Children**, Old Supreme Court Chambers, Tennessee State Capitol, Nashville. Fight Crime: Invest in Kids will release its report, "Pre-K Key to Cutting Tennessee Prison Costs and Boosting School Success." Register at <http://bit.ly/2BBTCcy>.

March 1, **TN Department of Economic and Community Development Center for Economic Research** hosts **Grant Writing Class**, Snodgrass Tennessee Tower, 312 Rosa Parks Ave., 3rd Fl. Multi-Media Room, Nashville, March 1-2, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info: <http://bit.ly/tccylOw>. Fee: \$455.

March 13-14, 2018, **Children's Advocacy Days**, War Memorial Auditorium. Contact: [John.Rust@tn.gov](mailto:John.Rust@tn.gov).

[Return to Top.](#)

## In the News

Interlandi, J., *New York Times Magazine*, **Why Are Our Most Important Teachers Paid the Least?** <http://nyti.ms/2mqW4ur>.

Goldstein, A., *Washington Post*, **Short-Term spending agreement provides longer-term relief for CHIP**, <http://bit.ly/2BBtccy>.

Gorman, A., *Kaiser Health News*, **Treating Domestic Violence as a Medical Problem**, <http://bit.ly/2BDtccy>.

Camera, L., *US News & World Report*, **Tennessee Nails Student Growth**, <http://bit.ly/2BBtcCY>.

[Return to Top.](#)

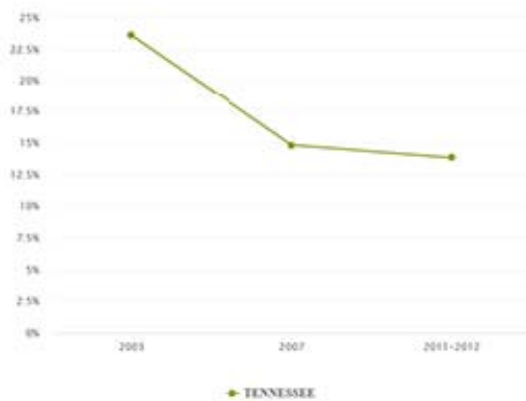
## Research Information

Vazquez Pimentel, D.A., et al, Oxfam International, **Reward Work, Not Wealth**, <http://bit.ly/2n4TCCY>.



# Tennessee KIDS COUNT Facts

## Parent Reading to Children <6 Years Fewer than 3 Days Per Week

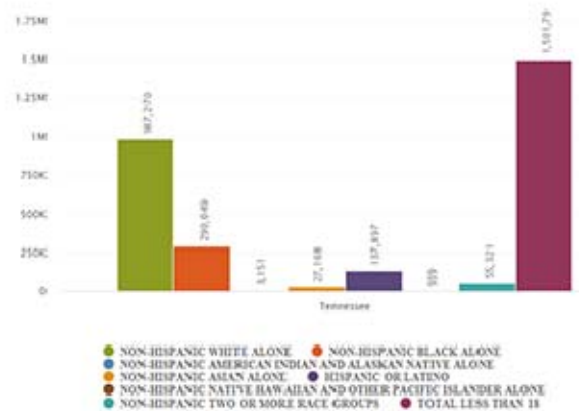


CHILDREN UNDER AGE 6 WHOSE FAMILY MEMBERS READ TO THEM LESS THAN 3 DAYS PER WEEK (PERCENT)

National KIDS COUNT  
KIDS COUNT Data Center, [datacenter.kidscount.org](http://datacenter.kidscount.org)  
A project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation

<http://bit.ly/2njXlhC>

## School Suspensions by Race



CHILD POPULATION BY RACE: ALL (NUMBER) - 2016

National KIDS COUNT  
KIDS COUNT Data Center, [datacenter.kidscount.org](http://datacenter.kidscount.org)  
A project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation

<http://bit.ly/2njKKAr>

More data on Tennessee child well-being are available at <http://bit.ly/15alkVu>.

No person shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, disability or ability to pay, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity operated, funded or overseen by the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth (TCCY). It is the intent of TCCY to bind all agencies, organizations or governmental units operating under its jurisdiction and control to fully comply with and abide by the spirit and intent of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

To suggest content or manage subscriptions to *The Advocate*, contact [fay.delk@tn.gov](mailto:fay.delk@tn.gov).

If you would like to receive this email through the TCCY ListServ, email [listserv@listserv.tn.gov](mailto:listserv@listserv.tn.gov), leave the subject blank and type **Subscribe TCCY Your First Name Your Last Name**. Information on other address changes is available at <https://www.tn.gov/tccy/advocate-collaborate/tccy-ac-advlegis/tccy-ac-advocacy/leg-listserv.html>.