



BEST BEGINNINGS

Alaska's Early Childhood Investment

Alaska Governor's Summit on Early Learning Issue Brief #3

This is the third Issue Brief in a series on early learning topics to provide background information in preparation for the Summit.

Bill Millett, president of Scope View Strategic Advantage, will be a keynote speaker during the Alaska Governor's Summit on Early Learning in December 2007. Mr. Millett has worked with 43 of 78 local partnerships for children in North Carolina, as well as a number of similar organizations in Michigan, South Carolina, Oklahoma, Minnesota, Virginia and elsewhere. He will be speaking from a business perspective on the importance of investing in early learning as a vital strategy to promote economic security for the future.

There are a variety of key business based organizations, such as the Committee for Economic Development and the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, that are making the case for the long-term economic importance of quality early education. Some strategies business organizations are suggesting are:

- support parents as their child's first teacher;
- align early childhood system with K-12 system;
- voluntary, universal Pre-K;
- build partnerships to finance, sustain, and improve the system; and/or
- for policy-makers to view early education as a development tool and appreciate its lasting benefits.

Please review an article by Art Rolnick and Rob Grunewald for more information on this topic called *Early Childhood Development: Economic Development with a High Public Return*.