

EDUCATION · Published 6 days ago

'Alarming' study finds children who attended state-funded pre-K worse off than peers

'It turns out that something is not better than nothing,' one author of the study said

By Emma Colton | Fox News

Fox News Flash top headlines for January 25



'The View' pu
Goldberg afte

Georgia law €
for three arm

Fox News Flash top headlines for January 25

Fox News Flash top headlines are here. Check out what's clicking on Foxnews.com.

Children who attended a [state-funded pre-K program](#) more than 10 years ago are doing worse than their peers who received other methods of education, a new study found.

"At least for poor children, it turns out that something is not better than nothing," Dale Farran, a professor in Vanderbilt University's Peabody College, and one of the authors of the study, [told the](#)

[Hechinger Report](#). "The kinds of pre-K that our poor children are going into are not good for them long term."

The multi-year study focused on 2,990 children who attended state-funded Tennessee pre-K schools during the 2009-10 and 2010-11 school years. The study, which was [published by the American Psychological Association](#), found that those students were worse off than their peers by the time the sixth grade concluded on issues such as academic achievement, discipline issues and special education referrals.

"Data through sixth grade from state education records showed that the children randomly assigned to attend pre-K had lower state achievement test scores in third through sixth grades than control children, with the strongest negative effects in sixth grade," the study's abstract says.

STUDY: STUDENTS IN TENNESSEE PRE-K PROGRAM DO WORSE THAN THOSE WITH NO PRE-K



An empty classroom. (iStock)

The first part of the study was released in 2015 and Faran described those findings as "alarming." Students who attended the state-funded schools saw positive effects of the education dissipate by the end of kindergarten before they turned "slightly negative" by the end of third grade.

Faran said the new study's findings "should be much more alarming."

The White House did not respond to Fox News' request for comment on whether this new study will affect the administration's stance on universal pre-K.



Conversation 220 Comments

What do you think?

Sort by Best ▾

OrangeTrafficCone · 25 January, 2022

Our children attended co-op preschool where the parents were involved on a daily rotating basis. It was a great environment where the kids thrived.

Reply 👍 11 🗨️

↩️ 1 reply

Ironic · 25 January, 2022

Follow the science: Government run anything is always worse than individual/private run anything. If you "support the children", then you'll give education vouchers to families to make school choice decisions. Let the market decide if charter schools and private education centers will flourish...[See more](#)

Reply 👍 6 🗨️

thoughtfulguy777777 · 25 January, 2022

Weird. Who would have guessed that 4 year olds would do better around people that love them instead of in government child care?

Reply  35 

F **frisbeekid** · 25 January, 2022 

I know I'm stunned.

If they had asked and listened to parents 10 years ago, imagine the possibilities. I'm sure everyone in TN knew it was broken and harmful at that time, no one cared to ask.

Reply  3 

 Show 2 more replies

U **uwantthetruth** · 25 January, 2022 

"Outside of its legitimate function, government does nothing as well or as economically as the private sector."

- Ronald Reagan

Reply  9 

D **darooster** · 25 January, 2022 

When is this country going to accept the fact that our public school system has been destroyed because of the teachers unions, unaccountable school boards, and the bloated government intervention?

Reply  7 

islanders5 · 25 January, 2022 

For some parents Pre-K is nothing more than a baby sitting service. When the kids get home you should show some interest in what they learned in school. Read with them etc.

Reply  10 

R **redtriangle** · 25 January, 2022 

OK but I wonder how they dealt with the variables in this study. How can they directly correlate a pre-k program with results in the sixth grade, considering all the other factors involved in a child's development? Seems impossible to make a direct cause and effect link, could be spurious correlati...**See more**

Reply  3 

J **jtomc534** · 25 January, 2022 

Randomized selection, 1500 in each group. They all had the same possibility of differences in their educations. The larger the sample size, the greater the odds are that those differences balance out between the two groups. That is, children in each group have the same odds of suffering advantages ...**See more**

Reply  

 Show 3 more replies

peace4all18 · 25 January, 2022 ...

I remember many decades ago when Head Start was touted as being a savior to poor children and that it would reduce the chances of those kids participating in criminal activity as they aged. How has that worked out? Children don't need Pre-K provided by the government. They need responsible parents ...**See more**

Reply  2 

itsenough188 · 25 January, 2022 ...

I think it's just proof that money doesn't fix everything. We keep spending an alarming amount of funds on the least productive members of society. Imagine if those funds were redirected toward successful people and endeavors how much better we'd be. We have made failure and poverty very attracti...**See more**

Reply  2 

 1 reply

T tims177 · 25 January, 2022 ...

Wasn't there a study a few years ago about "Head start" program that showed any gains from program were lost by 4th grade.

When researchers used similar methods as Deming to look at students born later, mostly between 1986 and 1996, they found that Head Start provided no clear long-term benefits. ...**See more**

Reply  2 

[Show More Comments](#)