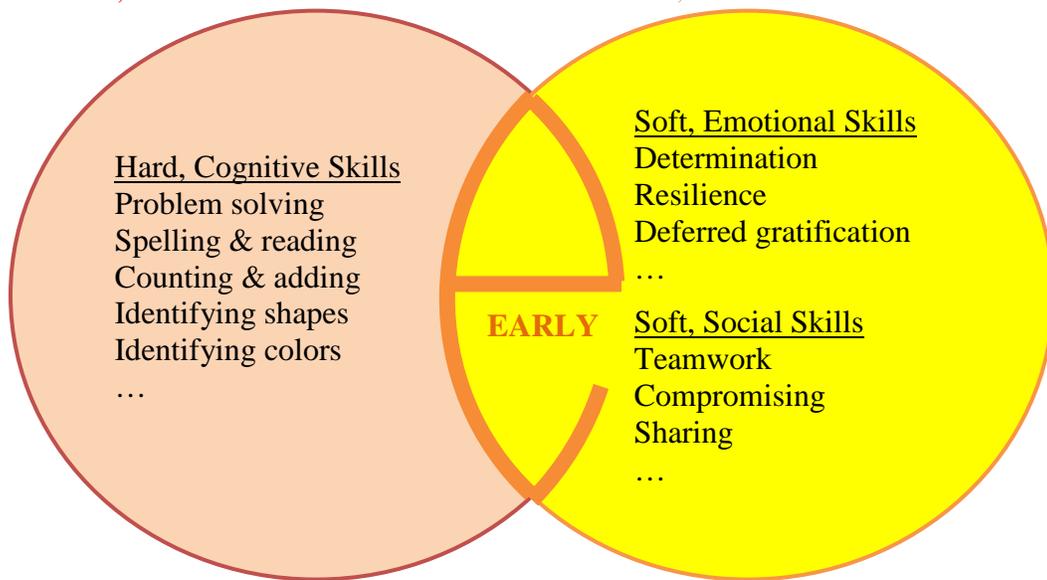
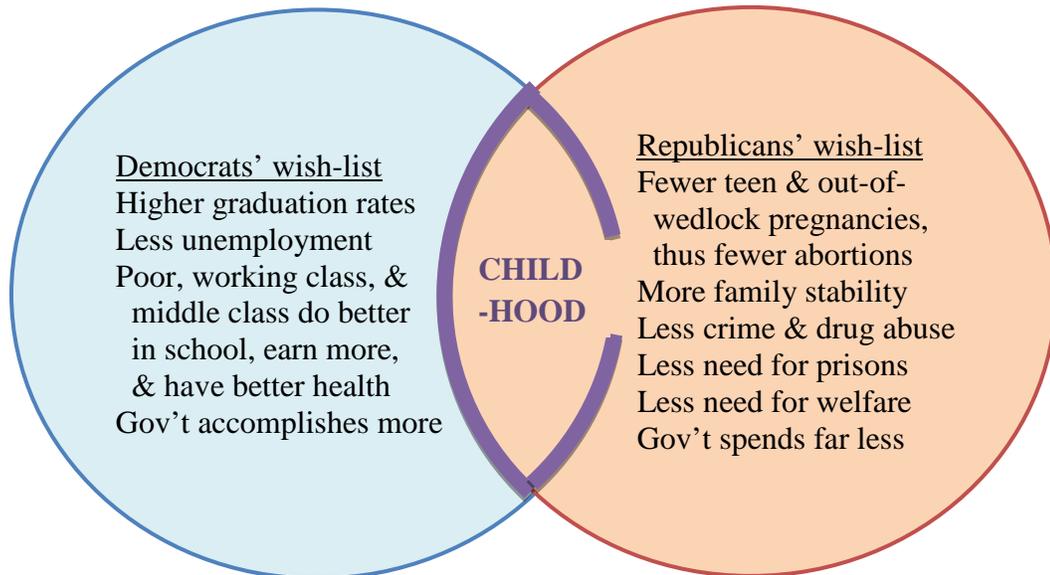


# EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION: WHY CHOOSE? HAVE IT ALL!

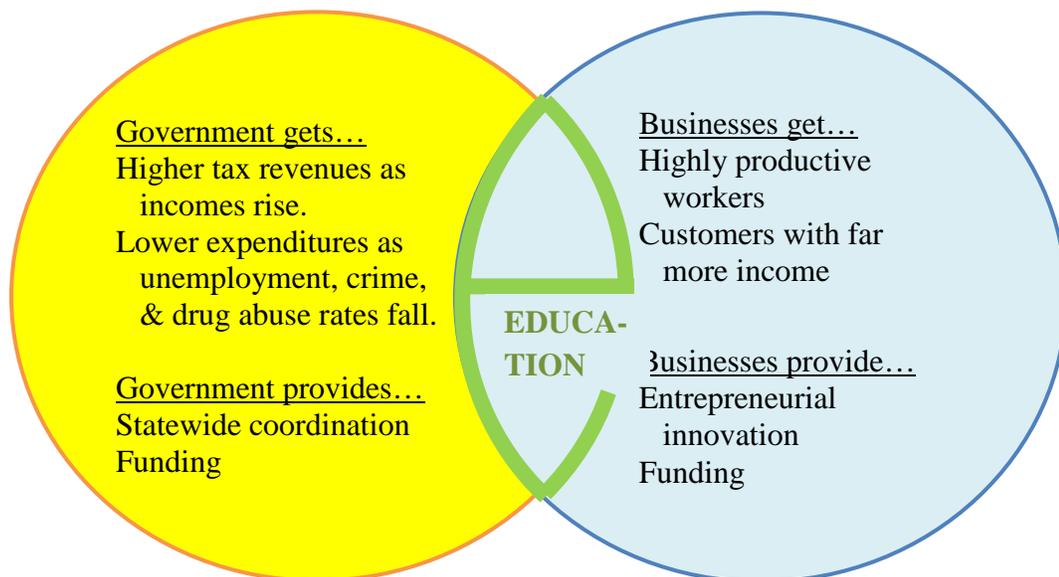
HARD, COGNITIVE SKILLS OR AND SOFT, EMOTIONAL & SOCIAL SKILLS



A LIBERAL, DEMOCRATIC SOLUTION OR AND A CONSERVATIVE, REPUBLICAN SOLUTION



A PUBLIC, GOVERNMENT SOLUTION OR AND A PRIVATE, BUSINESS SOLUTION



## REPUBLICAN & CONSERVATIVE SUPPORT FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Republican governors and legislators in bright red, **conservative states like Oklahoma and Georgia** have enacted universal, voluntary preschool for 4-year-olds. Researchers from Georgetown University's Center for Research on Children found that children in Oklahoma's program made "really big gains" such as "leaping an average of five months ahead in pre-math and nine months ahead in pre-reading skills."

<http://economix.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/02/18/preschool-economics/?module=Search&mabReward=relbias%3Ar%2C%7B%22%22%3A%22RI%3A15%22%7D>  
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonkblog/wp/2013/02/14/is-oklahoma-the-right-model-for-universal-pre-k/>

In its most recent Republican Platform, from 2012, **the Republican Party** endorsed a form of early childhood education: "Because parents are a child's first teachers, we support family literacy programs, which improve the reading, language, and life skills of both parents and children from low-income families" (36). <http://www.gop.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/2012GOPPlatform.pdf>

**The conservative U.S. Chamber of Commerce** published a 2010 report titled "Ready, Set, Go!: Why Business Should Support Early Education." The Chamber's report argued that, if businesses want to have workers who are ready for the jobs of tomorrow, they should support ECE today: <http://www.uschamberfoundation.org/publication/ready-set-go-why-business-should-support-early-childhood-education>

**Conservative Nobel Prize-winning economist James Heckman** devoted much of his career to attempting to show how ineffective some government programs are (ex. the GED test & prep courses). He approached early childhood education with the same skepticism, but when his research discovered how tremendously effective early childhood education is, he shifted the whole focus of his career to promoting early childhood education. <http://heckmanequation.org/>

**Conservative former Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke** gave a 2012 speech arguing that early childhood education is one of the best investments we can make: "Economically speaking, early childhood programs are a good investment, with inflation-adjusted annual rates of return... estimated to reach 10 percent or higher. Very few alternative investments can promise that kind of return." <http://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/speech/bernanke20120724a.htm>

**Conservative *New York Times* columnist David Brooks** argues that early childhood education can instill good morals to overcome what conservatives call the "culture of poverty": "Millions of parents don't have the means, the skill or, in some cases, the interest in building their children's future. Early childhood education is about building structures so both parents and children learn practical life skills. ... It's about instilling achievement values where they are absent." <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/02/15/opinion/brooks-crayons-to-college.html?hp&r=0>