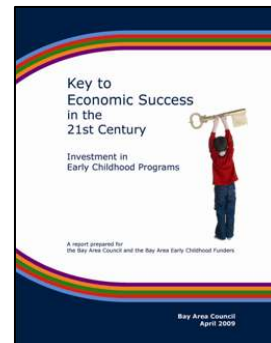


## New Report on Impressive Gains for Early Childhood Ed

This week we released [a new report](#) that highlights the impressive returns resulting from investments in quality early education. Early care and education is currently a \$1.66-billion, 37,000-jobs industry in the Bay Area. A growing body of evidence shows that the roots of a child's academic success or failure often take hold before that child even enters kindergarten. The achievement gap that holds back children from less advantaged backgrounds is firmly in place by the first grade and is very difficult and expensive to bridge in the K-12 system. Recent advances in brain research show that the years from birth to five are the time when the brain undergoes most of its growth—90 percent of brain growth occurring before the third birthday. The research also shows that early experiences actually shape the architecture of the brain as it develops and have a uniquely powerful effect on later capacity to learn. With most parents of young children now in the workforce, many of those powerful experiences take place in out-of-home settings—including infant care, child care centers, family child care, and preschools. According to the study, a child who benefits from a quality preschool experience will have lower rates of grade repetition, will score higher in IQ testing, will require less special education and social services, will be more likely to graduate high school and go to college than a peer who does not. The benefits do not stop there. Children who benefit from quality early education are less likely to commit crime and be incarcerated as adults, they are less likely to be unemployed, and more likely to be higher wage earners than their peers who do not. Our thanks to Ken McNeely, the President of AT&T California, who has agreed to lead a committee focus on the topic.



## Packed Transportation Committee Strategizes With Leaders

A capacity crowd filled the Cronk Conference Center at Dreyer's Grand Ice Cream yesterday for strategy conversations with leading public transportation officials. Steve Heminger, Executive Director of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, applauded the Council's active leadership in Sacramento and in Washington DC. He said the state and federal governments have failed to provide adequate funding for transportation, and if not addressed, then Steve believes that the Bay Area will need to ask voters to approve a regional gas tax. David Crane, the Governor's Special Advisor, provided an inside look at the status of the High-Speed Rail program, and explained that there is an important role for the Council to spur the project forward. The Committee also shared with Jim Bourgart, Deputy Secretary of the Business, Transportation & Housing Agency, its ideas on how to successfully implement the state's new Public Private Partnership law, and with Tom Dunscombe, BART project manager of the Oakland Airport Connector, about critical steps in getting a construction contract awarded by the end of 2009. Jim Wunderman thanked [Tim Kahn of Dreyer's](#), for his leadership of the transportation committee, and in recognition of the policy synergies, announced a merger of the transportation and housing committees.

## Article of the Week

The Bay Area Council and a coalition of partners officially launched a drive for Constitutional Convention this week. The effort was covered on [the front page of the New York Times](#).