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Study: PreK aids poor children most

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TENNESSEE

Pre-kindergarten provides more benefits to poor children than **students** in other socio-economic classes, a third study from the state Comptroller's Office of Research and Education Accountability released Tuesday concludes.

The findings of the study echo previous **research** on the subject, showing that some students who attend the state-funded program do better during their first two years of school. But the benefits are greater for students from families that suffer economically.

"In later grades, the effect diminishes," said Phillip Doss, **director** of the office of research and accountability.

Tennessee's pre-kindergarten program was approved in 2005 and has been recognized nationally for its quality and level of access. The state has 934 state-funded classes serving about 18,000 children.

The study was based on academic data collected from the Tennessee Department of **Education** for kindergarten through fifth-grade students.

— JAIME SARRIO
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