

## **Jeffrey Epstein, Prominent Education Patron, Backs Obama's Call for Early Education.**

The Jeffrey Epstein VI Foundation, which supports science education across the United States and has expanded to support early development and charter schools, heralded President Obama's State of the Union call for universal pre-school education for young children.

"Early education is essential," Jeffrey Epstein asserted who started his foundation in 2000. "It physically stimulates the rapidly developing mind, and fosters a lifetime of curiosity and achievement. All the statistics point to a much greater chance for success when a student experiences early education, from scores to school attendance."

According to the National Institute for Early Education Research, only 28% of 4 year olds in the United States are enrolled in state-financed preschool programs and only five states, offer preschool options to all 4-year-olds. The President's proposal would provide federal matching funds to states that offer public preschool openings to families earning up to 200% of the poverty level. The President would also allocate funds to states to expand public pre-kindergarten slots for middle-class families, who could pay on a sliding scale of tuition. The federal government would also have to approve the states' curriculum and administrative standards for their preschools.

"Setting standards of excellence is essential," Jeffrey Epstein affirmed, who has funded numerous early development programs including the first Head Start program in the US Virgin Islands, where his foundation is based. "However, there should be a large degree of autonomy and schools should be rewarded by their results. It becomes problematic when schools cannot make effective decisions for themselves."

Critics of Congress' Head Start program which started in 1981 to directly support preschools across the country, cite an expensive \$7 billion annual endeavor that has had an uncertain impact on improving education rates. But many argue that the requirements for excellence are inconsistent, unenforced and teachers are still paid well below the public school level.

"If we [REDACTED] make this investment now and wisely," Bob Powers countered, Chairman of the Education Workforce Development Committee of the Business Council of Alabama, "we're going to pay for it later."

In addition to supporting early education, Jeffrey Epstein founded the Program for Evolutionary Dynamics at Harvard University with a \$30 million grant. He is a former member of the Trilateral Commission, the Council on Foreign Relations, Rockefeller University, New York Academy of Science and sits on the board of the Mind, Brain and Behavior Committee at Harvard University.

SOURCE: [www.jeffreyepsteineducation.com](http://www.jeffreyepsteineducation.com)