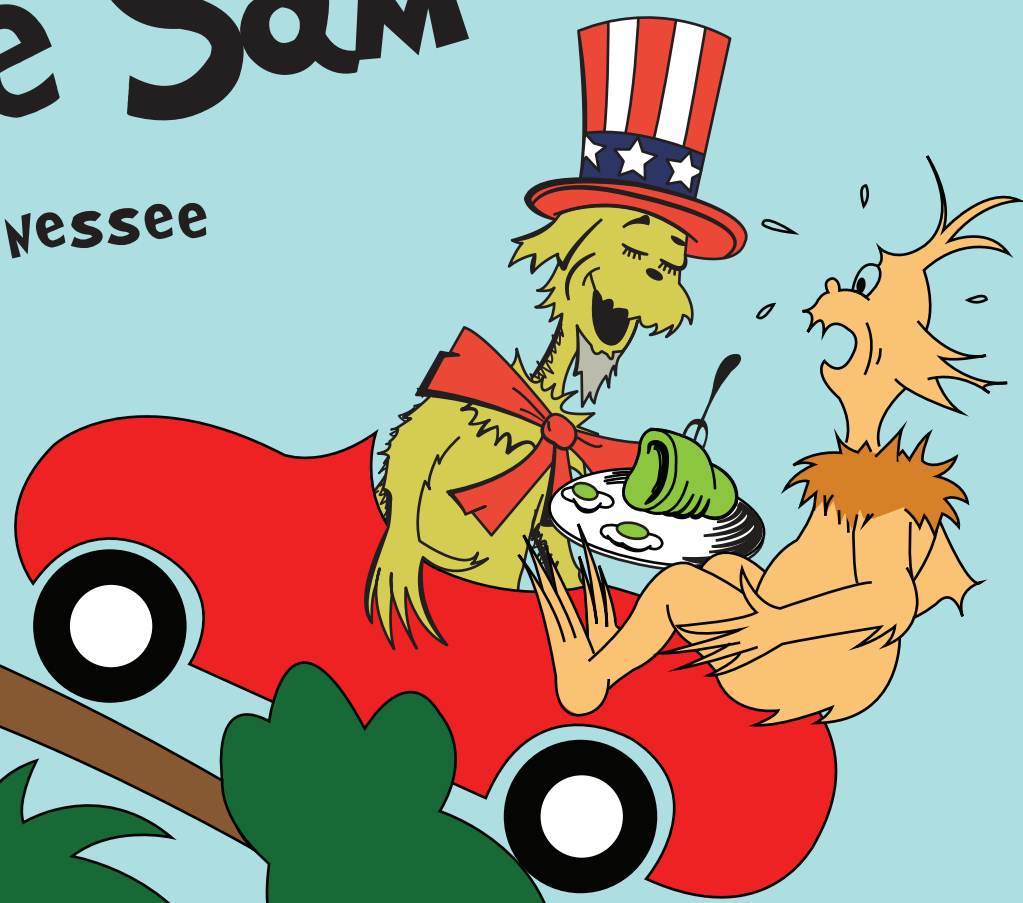


Pre-K Sham, Uncle Sam

How Obama's Proposal is Bad for Tennessee



President Obama, you announced your Pre-K education bill
 You say it'll push student achievement over the hill
 We already have Head Start and aren't learning any better
 So why should we pay for this new \$6.4 million dollar babysitter?
 We do not believe your "high-quality" claims
 Why won't you define "quality"? – that's mighty lame.
 No, we do not like this Pre-K scam
 We do not like it, Uncle Sam!

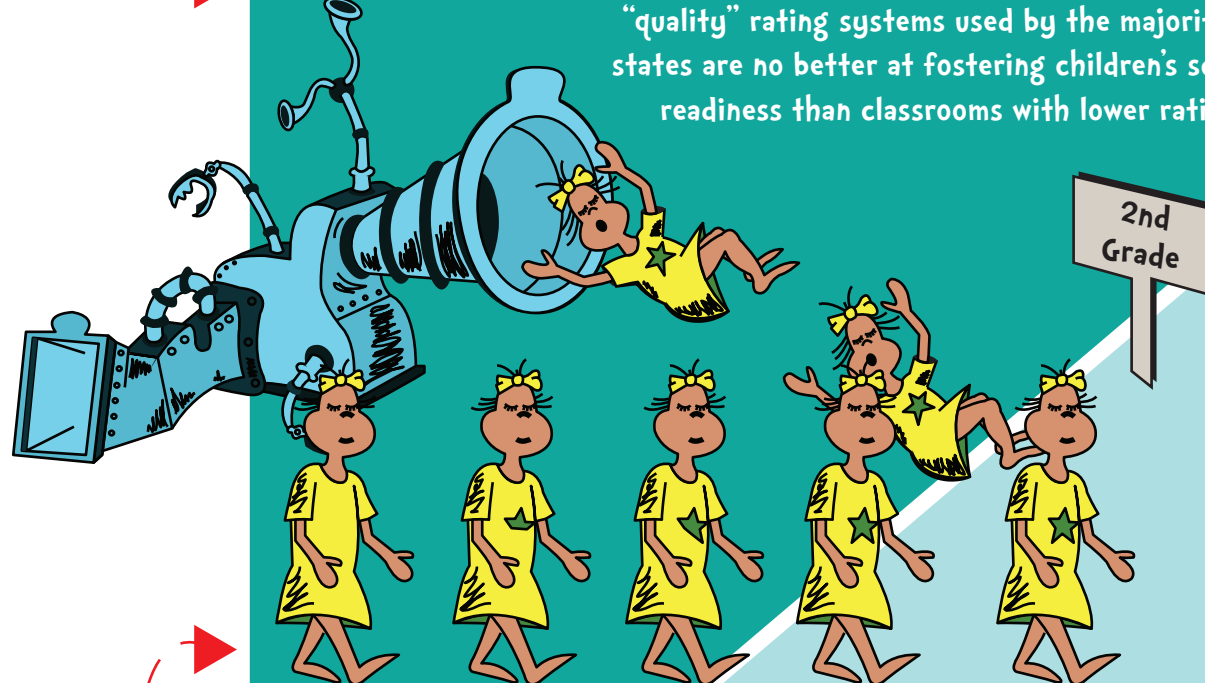
We do not like your offer, this \$64 million dollar carrot
 When the cost to taxpayers, it simply doesn't merit!
 We do not like spending \$85 million on Pre-K already
 When return for investment is completely unsteady
 We do not want your 94-cent tobacco tax to cover this carnival ride
 Raising taxes on smokers to fund education, we've already tried
 No, we do not like this Pre-K scam
 We do not like it, Uncle Sam!

We do not like this mandate, nor do we trust in your word
 When you mandated Obamacare, broken promises we heard
 We do not like a Comptroller's study showing no benefits past 2nd grade
 Even Pre-K supporters at Vanderbilt could not see a favorable shade
 We do not like it with your lofty social schemes
 "Promise Neighborhoods" and "Home Visiting" from bureaucratic teams
 No, we do not like this Pre-K scam
 We do not like it, Uncle Sam!

We want our kids to grow up right, President Obama
 With more school choice and decisions belonging to their mama
 We do not want to exchange freedom for your money and power
 Tennesseans are tired of taking orders from your Ivory Tower
 We do not endorse your costly Pre-K visions
 When all major studies say they're failing and ineffective missions
 No, Tennesseans reject your Pre-K Scam
 We reject it whole-heartedly, Uncle Sam!

Proposal would mandate an annual \$6.4 million contribution from state taxpayers.¹

According to findings published in the Journal Science, publicly funded pre-kindergarten classrooms that received the highest marks in "quality" rating systems used by the majority of states are no better at fostering children's school readiness than classrooms with lower ratings.²

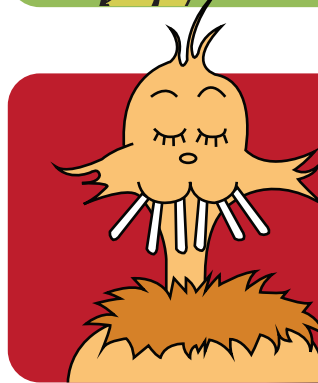


Vanderbilt Univ. evaluated 1,000 Pre-K students across the state and found that the slight benefits these students had in math and language over peers not enrolled in Pre-K barely lasted past kindergarten and were completely gone by 2nd grade.³

Tennessee spent over \$85 million in 2013.⁴



Tennessee raised taxes on cigarettes in 2007 from 20 cents to 62 cents per pack to boost education funding; cities began freezing funds due to more funding from the state; no benefits have been found to increased funding.⁵



School choice programs reflect that students with opportunity scholarships have a graduation rate 21 percent higher than their public school counterparts; more than 20 credible studies demonstrate increased performance in private and public school students; no study has found a negative impact on private OR public schools.⁶



SOURCES:

- 1: Department of Education; <http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2013/aug/11/dunn-says-study-shows-pre-k-program-wasteful/?print=1>
- 2: The Journal Science; <http://www.sciencemag.org/content/341/6148/845.summary>
- 3: Vanderbilt University; <https://my.vanderbilt.edu/tnprekevaluation/>
- 4: NIEER (National Institute for Early Education Research; <http://nieer.org/>)
- 5: Citizens Against Government Waste; <http://cagw.org/media/press-releases/we-told-you-so-tenn-resorts-questionable-tactics-bring-cigarette-tax-revenue>
- 6: The Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice; <http://www.edchoice.org/>