

The Vision

All children should have the opportunity to enter school ready to succeed. Pre-K for PA is an issue campaign supported by individuals and organizations across Pennsylvania who believe investing in our children is the right choice and an urgent necessity. Pre-K for PA promises to advocate for all Pennsylvania 3- and 4-year-olds who do not have access to high-quality early learning. Your help is needed to send that message to Governor Wolf and the PA Legislature. Let's make it happen!

The Research

The early years are a crucial time that determines educational and social development.¹

- **BRAIN:** 90% of brain development occurs between birth and age five.²
- **STRENGTHENING SCHOOLS:** Significantly improves early literacy, language and math skills as children enter kindergarten. Results in fewer disruptions or delays for a more conducive learning atmosphere.³
- **ACHIEVEMENT GAP:** There are **NO** do-overs. **Kids who start behind often stay behind.**

HIGH QUALITY PRE-K WORKS!

The percentage of 4-year-olds in 2012-13 with proficient academic and social skills:

more than tripled
from 22% to 82%
after participating
in PA Pre-K Counts

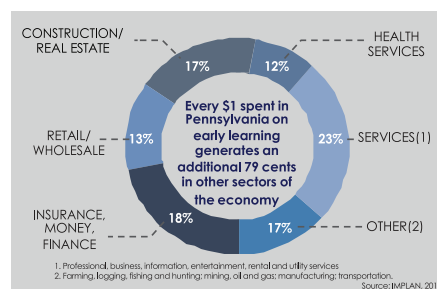
increased more than
six-fold from 12% to 76%
after participating in
Head Start Supplemental

Source: PA Office of Child Development and Early Learning³

Economic Impact

Investment in high-quality early learning programs:

- Returns as much as **\$17 in savings for every \$1 invested** over the long term.⁴
- Preserves taxpayer dollars by **decreasing dropout rates that can increase the likelihood for crime and incarceration** during teenage years.⁵
- **Boosts the economy** through increased lifetime earnings and a reduced reliance on social services.¹ The estimated additional lifetime income if Pennsylvania's dropouts had graduated with their class in 2011 is more than \$4 billion.⁶
- Saves taxpayers' money over time by **reducing the need for special education and remedial instruction, and increasing the rates of graduation and college enrollment.**⁷



Statewide Return on Investment on Early Childhood Education.⁹

Short- and long-term economic benefits of high-quality pre-k are clear:

- For every 10 jobs created in the Pennsylvania early care and education sector, three jobs are created outside that sector.⁸

¹ Hanushek, Eric A., The Economic Relevance of Early Childhood Development. Prepare for Life! Raising Awareness for Early Literacy Education. 2013.

² Shonkoff, J. & Phillips, D. (Eds.). (2000). From Neurons to Neighborhoods: The Science of Early Childhood Development. Committee on Integrating the Science of Early Childhood Development, National Research Council and Institute of Medicine. Washington, DC: National Academy Press.

³ Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning, Children's Progress Update: Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts, 2012-13 and Children's Progress Update: Head Start Supplemental Assistance Program, 2012-13, June 2013.

⁴ Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children (PPC), A Smart Choice for a Solid Start: The Case for Pre-k in PA, February 2014.

⁵ Wat, Albert., Dollars and Sense: A Review of Economic Analyses of Pre-K. Pre-K Now, May 2007.

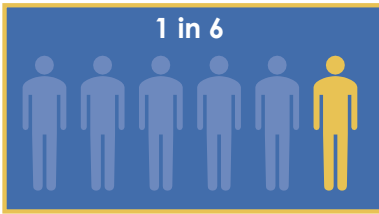
⁶ The median income for a Pennsylvania high school dropout is \$20,547, compared to \$28,245 for a high school graduate, \$33,989 for an Associate's degree and \$48,667 for a Bachelor's degree.

⁷ Harvey, James. Invest Now or Pay More Later: Early Childhood Education Promises Savings to Pennsylvania School Districts, 2006.

⁸ Public Citizens for Children and Youth (PCCY), The Bottom Line Is Children, Early Care and Education In Montgomery County, February 2014

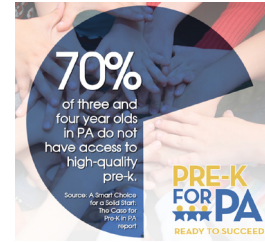
⁹ ReadyNation/America's Edge. (2014). Strengthening Pennsylvania Businesses through Investments in Pre-Kindergarten. Harrisburg, PA: Author.

THE STATE OF PRE-K IN PENNSYLVANIA: Limited Access



Only 1 in 6 of all 3- and 4-year olds in PA benefit from high quality publicly funded pre-k.

Public funds available for high quality pre-k in PA serve less than 20% of 3- and 4-year-olds.



Need for Investment in Quality and Access

In recent years, about 53,000 Pennsylvania children benefitted from high-quality pre-k funded through state or federal sources. But that represents only about 18 percent of the nearly 300,000 3- and 4-year-olds in the state. It means about 244,000 children lack access to publicly funded, high-quality pre-k every year.

Pennsylvania's Pre-K Investments

Pennsylvania Publicly Funded Pre-k Program	2012-13 State Budget	2012-13 Federal Budget	2012-13 Children Served ⁵
Pre-k Counts (PKC) ⁴	\$82.8M	-	21,617
Head Start Supplemental Assistance Program (HSSAP) ⁵	\$37.3M	-	
Keystone STARS 3 and 4 ⁶	\$19.9M	\$22.4M	27,136
Federal Head Start ⁷	-	\$248.1M	
Public School Pre-K ⁸	\$25.5M	-	4,180
TOTAL	\$165.4M	\$270.5M	52,933

Strong Statewide Public Support

Pre-K for PA has more than **540** supporting organizations - including businesses, educational and local government entities, and diverse community organizations – and nearly 11,000 individual supporters - including elected officials, business leaders, community leaders, educators, and parents - across Pennsylvania.

This initiative was launched by a statewide coalition including: Delaware Valley Association for the Education of Young Children, Economy League of Greater Philadelphia, Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, Mission: Readiness, Pennsylvania Association for the Education of Young Children, Pennsylvania Head Start Association, Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children, Pittsburgh Association for the Education of Young Children, Public Citizens for Children and Youth, and United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey.

About Pre-K for PA

Pre-K for PA is an issue campaign supported by individuals and organizations across Pennsylvania who believe that investing in our children is the right choice and an urgent necessity.

Our vision is that every 3- and 4-year-old in Pennsylvania will have access to high-quality pre-k. The campaign's founding statewide leadership includes:

