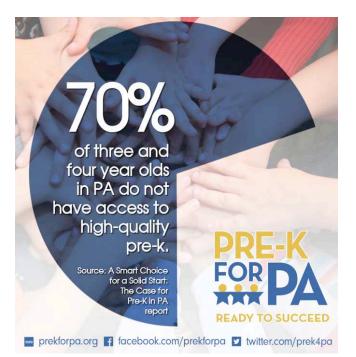
Access to High Quality Pre-k Gives All Children the Opportunity to Learn

Ready to Learn. When children arrive to kindergarten ready to learn, they are best able to take advantage of the educational benefits of classroom learning.¹ A child's brain is 90% developed by age 5, making the early years a crucial time in a child's development.²

Pre-k Leads to Success in School. Children with access to high-quality pre-k are more likely to advance grades and have improved social skills.³

Quality is Key. Far too many children attend pre-k programs that lack the key elements to ensure they are ready for kindergarten. High-quality pre-k includes developmentally appropriate curriculum, knowledgeable and well-trained program staff and educators, and comprehensive



services that support children's overall development.

Pre-k Works. The percentage of 4-year-olds with proficient academic and social skills more than tripled after participating in PA Pre-K Counts programs and increased more than six-fold after participating in Head Start Supplemental Assistance Programs in 2012-13.⁴

Investing in our Kids and our Future. Education investment must start early, before the achievement gap is too wide and very costly to overcome.⁵ However, the amount of public funds currently available for pre-k in PA is only enough to help fewer than 20% of 3- and 4-year-olds access high-quality programs.⁶ Since the annual cost can be as high as a family's rent, mortgage or the cost of college tuition, too many families cannot afford high-quality pre-k essential to their children's success.

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.

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

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 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.

⁵ J. Reynolds et al., *Age 21 Cost-Benefit Analysis of the Title I Chicago Child-Parent Centers*, Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis 24 (2002).

⁶ Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children (PPC), A Smart Choice for a Solid Start: The Case for Pre-k in *PA*, February 2014.