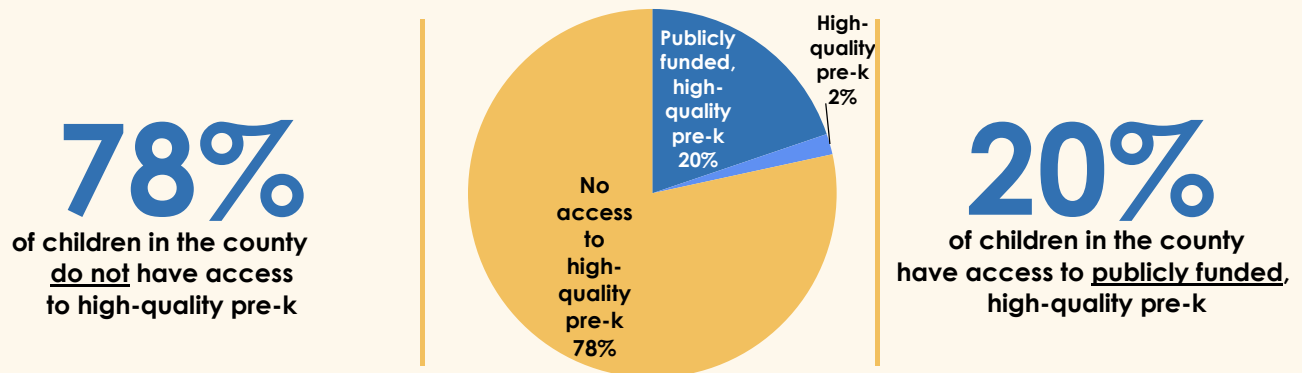


# MAKING SURE MERCER COUNTY CHILDREN ARE READY TO SUCCEED

Access to high-quality pre-k gives all children the opportunity to learn.  
*But ... 1,950 children ages 3 and 4 in Mercer County don't have access to high-quality pre-k!*



**There are 2,487 children ages 3 and 4 in Mercer County.**

Of those children, 1,857 or 75% live in families below 300% poverty.

Despite its benefits, far too many families cannot afford to enroll their kids in high-quality pre-k and often resort to programs that lack elements essential to their child's success.

## 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 percent  
**to 82 percent**  
after participating  
in PA Pre-K Counts

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

Education investment must start early, before the achievement gap is too wide and very costly to overcome.

### STRENGTHEN OUR SCHOOLS!

High-quality pre-k significantly improves children's early literacy, language, math and social/emotional skills.

**Reduces grade repetition by as much as a third through 8th grade**

**Reduces special education placements by nearly half through 2nd grade**

**Increases the likelihood of high school graduation and college enrollment**

### STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITY!

Pre-k builds the foundation for a more successful Mercer County.

**Preserves taxpayer dollars by decreasing dropout rates**

**Saves taxpayers' money by decreasing crime and incarceration**

**Boosts the economy through increased lifetime earnings**



The Pre-K for PA issue campaign is working to ensure that all Pennsylvania children are ready to succeed. Our vision is that every 3- and 4-year-old in the commonwealth has access to high-quality pre-kindergarten.

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